

25 August 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

Catholic educators are called to uphold the dignity of every person, independent of ethnicity, creed, gender, sexuality, age or ability. We promote a world where no human should have their dignity or freedom compromised through experiences of poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice. At Iona, we aspire to be people-centred and empower others, and one way that we do this is by connecting with our First Nations culture through story and experiences.

Today on our Staff Reflection Day, the Iona staff will be led to a deeper understanding of Catholic Social Teaching, particularly Human Dignity, through the perspective of First Nations peoples. Aunty May Owen, reflected on the theme, 'Connection to Culture and the link to human dignity', drawing from personal experience and her work as a First Nations children's educator. Nikki McKenzie, Custodian of Wadawurrung Country, and Norm Stanley, will immerse participants in stories of culture and spirit during a visit to the You Yangs (Wurdi Youang).

We are so thankful for this day of renewal and learning, where we can strengthen our relationships with each other and develop our connection to First Nations culture and story. Adults need time for learning and growth and setting aside this day supports the development of our community. We hope our students enjoyed their student-free day; we know our staff will enjoy it.

Bullying No Way! Student Leadership, Voice and Agency in Action this Week



I was super impressed to witness our junior leaders who were busy making a positive change here at Iona this week. The future is bright, and this is clear when our young people are given space and opportunity to make a change in the world.

By recognising and nurturing the potential in our young people, we are preparing them for the challenges they will face in life after Iona. A small group of students decided to take a stance against bullying behaviour. They researched and came up with some amazing ideas, only to realise they had planned something too enormous to facilitate. They pivoted and changed their ideas until they came up with a wonderful community activity to create a banner for all students to sign – Iona students pledging to stand up to bullying in our community.

Teachers could have spoon-fed them this idea, but we did not need to, instead they stepped up and used their leadership skills to drive this project.



In recent times we have witnessed a lot of negative press about young people, but we sometimes forget about our amazing leaders who are making their mark on the Iona world in our community. Who knows, we may have witnessed the next Greta Thunberg or Malala Yousafzai in action this week. Thank you to Lily McCrohan, Evie McNamara, Josie Turner-Leonard, Emily Howes, Marlee Sammut, Nalani Webber and Stella Rose for their initiative and drive.

Kylie Power
Acting Principal

Diversity Club News

Today is *Wear it Purple Day*, but at Iona we celebrated it yesterday! We celebrate and promote the value of diversity and inclusion in our Iona community and the wider world. The Christian narrative explains that all of creation is good and made in the image of God, meaning each human has been gifted with an unrepeatable and unique dignity. Our diversity group meets each week and today they ran a stall creating awareness in our community around LGBTQIA+ youth.

By adding a touch of purple, we unite to stand against the alarming rate of discrimination LGBTQIA+ youth still face. By wearing purple, Australians demonstrate to rainbow young people that they are seen, supported and respected, acknowledging all have the right to be proud of who they are and who they are becoming. Originally founded by students in response to global stories of teenagers taking their own lives due to bullying and harassment, Wear it Purple Day has become an international movement of celebration and support.



Diversity Group & Kate, Mary & Mel

2023 Prime Minister's Spelling Bee

A huge well done to Serena Caimano, Lucy McLaughlin, Imogen Heffer, Zoe Gullo, Naomi Rijnvis, Chelsea Sizeland, Jimmy Benne, Ainsleigh Gray, Allec Slater, Owen Davies and Ed Levy, who all put themselves forward to represent Iona College in the national 2023 online Prime Minister's Spelling Bee last week.

These Year 7 and 8 Iona students completed a time sensitive, sight unseen, online spelling bee, where they were quizzed on their spelling knowledge of a range of age appropriate spelling challenges.

Congratulations to Imogen Heffer for being the highest scoring Iona Year 7 student and Ainsleigh Gray for not only coming first in the Year 8 Iona division but also scoring well enough to be advanced to the first round of State Finals. Iona College wishes Ainsleigh luck in her participation in this round next week! Go Ainsleigh!



Upcoming Columba Day



The last day of Term 3 is a day to celebrate Iona - all that we are and all that we hope to be. More details will come over the coming weeks but some things to prepare for:

- The day will begin with Mass celebrated by Father Jim
- Formal uniform will be worn
- There will be food trucks, a BBQ and donuts!
- There will be a dunk tank and some teachers will get dunked!
- There will be dancing and busking
- The teachers will beat the students in the AFL Staff v Student games (Junior and Senior!)
- Fun will be had with sack races, a tug of war and other games
- Everyone will get to go home at 2.05 pm!

Stay tuned for more information.

Meet the Iona Team



**IONA MEET
THE TEAM**

MATT HORSTED

Applied Learning Leader

"Never follow anyone else's path.
Unless you're in the woods and
you're lost and you see a path.
Then by all means follow that
path."



Meet Matt Horsted, our Applied Learning Leader. Guiding young people and helping them discover their passions and life skills is a true calling he holds close.

For Matt, the most gratifying aspect of his job is when a student achieves even the smallest victory and he can be a part of that journey! He finds the sense of being a part of their success truly fulfilling.

Matt is a dedicated Geelong supporter and has been a member for over three decades – there's no chance of him changing sides (sorry to all the Hawks fans). He's also an enthusiast of footy and basketball. In his elusive "spare time," you might catch him staying active through gym sessions, running or leisurely walks. One of his lesser known talents is that he is an author of a few podcasts on Spotify!

Born and raised in Geelong, Matt's roots run deep within the city. Matt notes that his main form of 'sustenance' ☺ comes in the form of coffee, but he also enjoys healthy options like burgers, donuts and chocolate. We like your taste Matt ☺!

Matt's adventurous spirit has led him overseas. London and New York sit at the top of his list, drawn by their bustling energy. For relaxation, his city of choice would be Santorini. Joining the Iona Team is, for Matt, an incredible chance to play a role in a growing school's foundation. The excitement of being involved in this journey fuels his dedication.

Matt your enthusiasm for mentoring and connecting with young minds is a joy to see. Thank you for being part of the Iona Team!

First Aid Update



I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your ongoing support as Iona's College Nurse and share some First Aid updates.

Student Injuries (outside college hours)

If your young person has experienced any injuries outside school and you think it may impact school – for example, moon boot or plaster, could you please complete an [online Student Injury Notification Form](#).

This form does not need to be signed by a doctor and if easier can be simply emailed to myself. This awareness will assist me in monitoring the injury and is an easy way to communicate any modifications that may need to happen at school etc. or administer any necessary medications.

Head Knocks and Concussion Management

I am currently formulating a Concussion Management Policy. A Concussion Management Policy is essential for ensuring the safety, wellbeing, and proper care of students who may experience concussions. By having a structured approach in place, we can respond promptly, minimize risks and contribute to the successful recovery of students affected by concussions. There will be more information on this next term.

Please remember that I am here as a resource for your child's health and wellbeing. If your child has any health concerns, allergies, medications or recent injuries (even if they occurred outside of school), do not hesitate to reach out to me. kate.every@iona.vic.edu.au

Your communication is vital in ensuring the best care for your student.

Kate Every
College Nurse

NAPLAN Results for Years 7 & 9

If you haven't already received your young person's NAPLAN results in the post please email us (reception@iona.vic.edu.au) or give Reception a call.

Thanks for your support,

Kylie and Ash