

1 September 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

Iona was blessed with a surprise visitor last week; a visitor all the way from Mannya, Uganda! Fr Emma is in the Geelong region catching up with friends from parishes and schools, who support his community in Africa. Fr Emma oversees 17 schools including St Mary's Kiruuli, which is where we send money for the student Feeding Program. The staff of Iona were fortunate to meet Fr Emma, who thanked us for our wonderful contributions to support children who desperately want to learn but live in extreme poverty. Inviting Fr Emma to join us on our Staff Reflection Day gifted him the opportunity to hear the voices of First Nations people, visit Country and hear a didgeridoo for the first time. He had a wonderful day. We hope that members of Iona, staff and students, will pay a return visit to Fr Emma and St Mary's in future years and we look forward to exploring this possibility further.



On the Reflection Day, Teaching and non-Teaching staff took time out to reflect on the importance of culture to human dignity. We began the day celebrating the work that we have done at the College to fulfil the requirements of Child Safe Standard 1 – Establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued. Our work in this space was recently shared with educators from across the region at the Respectful Relationship Forum, but only a few of our staff were in attendance on that day.

The presentation was followed by Aunty May Owen sharing stories of life, culture, voice and belonging. We walked with her across Australia to the many places where she has lived and worked, and through this journey with Aunty May, we became closer to First Nations people and story. The beautiful weather was perfect for our visit to the significant Wadawurrung site of the You Yangs, where Nikki McKenzie and Norm Stanley nurtured our connection to Country through stories of place and culture. Disconnecting from the daily routine allowed us to step into the moment and feel the peace and spirit of place. The Reflection Day was a super success – our staff enjoyed it, Fr Emma loved visiting the You Yangs and we loved showing him around.



Carmen Ahearn
Head of Culture and Identity

Carmina Burana

A huge thank you to Jodie Townsend and her team for the amazing performance of 'Carmina Burana' last night. Hosted at Iona this amazing showcase of talent just wowed everyone in the audience.



Congratulations to our talented choir and the choirs of Ballarat Grammar, Christian College Geelong, Clonard College, St Josephs College, Sacred Heart College and the mini maestros from Clairvaux Primary School.



Jodie's vision to create an environment that nurtures these students' creative abilities is to be commended. She did over 20,000 steps yesterday putting the finishing touches on her plan (18 months in the making). There were so many Iona staff that made the night possible – it was a combined effort that involved many amazing staff.

Kylie Power
Acting Principal

Central Australia

We wish our first Central Australia trippers well as they make their way through South Australia, to Kings Canyon, Uluru and finally, Alice Springs. The road is long but no doubt the experience will be amazing. We look forward to hearing all about their travels on their return and hopefully seeing some great photos during their journey.

Day 1 - Morning rest stop at Nhill



Social Justice Day

A group of our Year 9 leaders recently joined with students from SJC and SHC to learn about social justice and the work of MacKillop Family Services. A key learning from the day was not to wonder, 'What's wrong with you?' but rather 'What's happened to you?' Our students learnt about diversity and factors impacting a young person's ability to learn and they were challenged to take a compassionate view of others. They enjoyed spending time with the therapy dog and learning more about the body and the way that it expresses and manages emotion. Inspired by the stories that they heard, our students have some great ideas for social justice action in the future.



Footy Colours Day – Thursday 14th September

In line with the business end of the AFLM and local football being underway, and the AFLW season about to commence, on Thursday 14th September all students and staff are invited to donate a gold coin and wear their 'footy colours'. Appropriate ways to do this include:

- Wearing a scarf or beanie in the colours of your favourite football team
- Wearing a jumper over the school PE/Sport Uniform
- Wearing football socks

All students on the day who are donning some footy colours are to also wear their PE/Sport uniform.

This initiative is part of my 'Passion Project'. I am passionate about raising funds and awareness for 'Dolly's Dream', an organisation that aims to raise awareness about the harm bullying can bring and to promote positive, supportive social environments. All money raised on the day will go to 'Dolly's Dream' and hence towards making this vision a reality. Activities on the day will include the longest kick competition, kick it into the bin game, and a Community Group quiz.

Students are of course not required to participate in this and therefore may simply wear their normal school uniform (PE/Sport or formal); these students may or may not elect to make a gold coin donation. Please note that gold coin donations are to be given to Community Group teachers in the week leading up to the event or on the day.

If anyone has any questions, please contact me or Ms. Stevenson. Thank you for your support!

Blaire Durran
Year 8 Student

From the Wellbeing Team

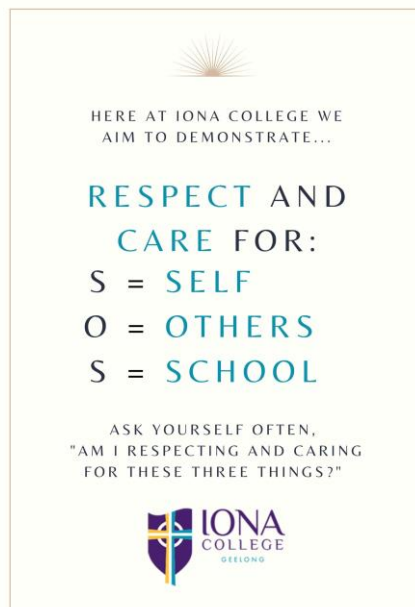
Respect and care for self, others and school

All Community Group teachers have placed the poster pictured below in their rooms as a reference point for students regarding our expectations for all members of our College community. In Community Group these themes have been explored with students being asked to provide lived examples within our Iona community of each.

Some examples include:

- Self-care and respect – eating breakfast each day, wearing the uniform well, consuming enough water, getting appropriate amounts of sleep, using appropriate language
- Care and respect for others – using appropriate language, maintaining appropriate body language, class conduct being excellent, ensuring all rubbish is placed in the bin
- Care and respect for school – caring for our environment, wearing the uniform well and in line with College expectations, representing our school with pride

We are passionate about continuing to bring these words to life here within our community and know that there is an interrelationship between each; how a person cares and respect themselves impacts how they care for others and our school, and vice versa. Feel free to have a conversation with your young person about this framework, and we are keen to hear any feedback you may have.



Reflections on Year 8 Boys 'Courage Cup' Against St. Josephs

It was a joy to see our Year 8 boys play in the 'Courage Cup' against their St. Josephs counterparts earlier this week. Our students displayed great effort, sportsmanship, and pride in our school through their actions. The 'Courage Cup' medal, awarded by the coach of the opposing team to the player he/she deems to be the best player on the day, was awarded to Lincoln Grey for his fierce attack on the ball and large work rate. Congrats to Lincoln on this recognition, and to all our students for representing the College so wonderfully.



Reminder on Waiting to be Collected After School and Lining up for the Bus

A reminder that all students being picked up from school at the end of the school day are required to wait near the pick-up bay in our car park i.e., near our College canteen. Students are not to wait nor be picked up in the area near the basketball courts as this presents a safety risk.

We have also communicated with our students who catch the school buses to and from school, the importance of lining up in the designated area at the end of the school day. Primarily this is in the interest of fairness to all students, as well as a safety issue given our staff are charged with supervising students in this specific space (i.e., the basketball courts).

Podcast Recommendations – “How Other Dads Dad”

With Father’s Day almost upon us, we thought it would be a good time to revisit our recommendation on this wonderful podcast. In “How Other Dads Dad”, famous Australian comedian and media personality Hamish Blake chats with other dads he really admires about their approach to “dadding”, and in the process hopefully learns a little, steal some of their hard-earned wisdom and helps us all dad/parent a tiny bit better. There are lots of good episodes but two of our favourites are the episodes with Rob Sitch and Adam Hills. A new season was launched last Friday, with episode two being released today. We hope you enjoy it and feedback of course is always welcome. <https://howotherdadsdad.com/>

A special happy Father’s Day to all Dads, Grandfathers, and significant male role models in the lives of our young people!

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 Walscott, Mrs. Lauren Flint, Mr. Luke Reynolds

Piano Concert – Thursday 24th August



On Thursday 24th of August, Angela Lin (our Piano Teacher) organized a wonderful concert for her students. Congratulations to Harry, Chloe, Imogen, Xavier, Anna and Archer on your fine performances. All of these students have begun their piano lessons this year and it was wonderful to see how they have progressed this year. I know that Angela and all of these students worked very hard to prepare pieces for this concert. I am sure that knowing they were performing added a little “extra burst” to their practice at home. Thank you to our students and of course Angela, for sharing your musical passion with our community.

Jodie Townsend

Teacher / Music / Innovation Leader (Pedagogy & Instruction)

2 Weeks Until Columba Day – The Countdown is On



Columba Day is just around the corner! In just two weeks, on September 15th, we'll be coming together for a day of festivities and fun. Here is more of a rundown of what you need to know:

What Uniform is required?

Students should be dressed in Formal Uniform for the day. Anyone participating in the Staff vs. Students Footy game should bring appropriate sports attire to change into after the morning Mass.

Activities Galore!

We have a variety of activities planned for the day (no money is required for any of these):

- Join classic games like the egg and spoon race, ball in the bin and sack races
- The iconic Staff Dunk Tank (there is already a lot of excitement for this!)
- A disco in the stadium for students to showcase their dance moves
- Iona buskers will add an extra touch of entertainment throughout the day
- 3v3 basketball knockout on the halfcourts
- The iconic Staff vs. Students Footy Game (Junior and Senior games)
- Quiet activities like board games/cards and more in the Resource Centre
- Sing Star in the Stadium

How can I purchase food for Columba Day?

Prepurchase – Donuts and BBQ

Vouchers for the BBQ Sausage sizzle can be pre-purchased NOW for \$3 until **12 pm on Wednesday 13 September** via the Online canteen (GF, Vego and Vegan options will be available)

Vouchers for the Columba Day donuts can be pre-purchased NOW for \$2.50 until **12 pm on Wednesday 13 September** via the Online canteen (GF, Vego and Vegan options will be available)

Food Trucks

The following cuisines will be available from four awesome food trucks on the day:

- Dumplings
- Mexican
- Twisto
- Burgers

Students are required to have a debit card on the day to purchase from the food trucks. No cash will be accepted and students will not have access to their phones on the day. Menus for the food trucks will be circulated next week.

What Time does School finish on Columba Day (The final day of the Term)

The last day of school will officially finish at 2:05 p.m. All buses will run as normal from 2:05 p.m.

Stay tuned for more updates as we count down the days.

Artwork Celebration



The artwork of the week is from Flynn in Year 10 who completed his final artwork piece relating to his interpretation of time in his Year 10 i-create class. He worked throughout recess and lunch over a period of weeks to complete this work of art and showed sheer dedication and determination throughout this process.

Here is Flynn's completed artwork - posca pens and spray paint on plywood were used for this masterpiece.



Thanks for your support,

Kylie and Ash