

**27 October 2023**

Dear Parents and carers,

**Lord,**

***Bless the teachers who give their heart to teaching. Thank you for the special gift that you have given them and for giving them a spirit of Grace and compassion. May they have the strength and endurance to perform their many tasks, and may they know and feel the deep gratitude of those whom they teach. Amen***



Today officially marks the celebration of 'World Teachers' Day'. We express our deep gratitude to the teachers who have played important roles in shaping our own lives. We can all remember our favourite teacher at school and why they had an impact on us. Most teachers join the teaching profession after experiencing positive role models throughout their own education. I am very proud of the teaching staff who have joined us at Iona over the past four years. They are incredibly passionate and dedicated individuals committed to forming positive relationships with our students. We do not need complex educational theories to tell us that students will achieve enhanced outcomes when they believe that their teachers care about them. Positive relationships must be at the core of what we do at Iona. We are blessed at Iona to have our teachers join us who knew in advance that the 'Iona experience' would be different from any other teaching experiences that they have had. In 2024 another 30 teachers will be joining the Iona community and we will welcome them excited about the many gifts and talents that they will bring with them.

#### Term 4's Focus on Excellence

Term Four is the time of the year that we really focus on excellence within our students and staff. It can be tricky to identify excellence when competition and the 'tall poppy' syndrome exist, but it is much easier to find when reframed as a personal pursuit. Excellence is as individual as each member of the Iona community. It is not about being 'the best', it is about being 'your best'. Like many of us, Sr Mary Glowrey's modesty would have prevented her from describing herself as 'excellent' but there is no doubt that she truly was. Sr Mary worked hard throughout her life, she had aspirations that continued to evolve as she learnt more and saw more, and she was determined and committed as she looked for her pathway.

She experienced setbacks, adjusted her path and reset. With each step she took, she set out to do her best. A colleague who worked alongside Sr Mary in India likened her to a lighthouse who kept in the background but shone the light of good deeds far and wide. As the end of the year nears, we continue to encourage our students to be their best, to be confident that they are achieving personal excellence and to be proud of their efforts.

### **Iona Community Commitment to Social Justice**

Our Iona community has again shown its excellence by supporting social justice works over the past few weeks. Give Where You Live has expressed sincere thanks for our support of the 2023 Feed Geelong Appeal which exceeded all expectations this year. Overall, the Appeal raised over \$85,000, with Iona College contributing just over \$3500. This display of excellence comes from an incredible shared effort that effectively addresses social disadvantages in our local area.

We recognise the importance of the Feed Geelong Appeal when we become aware of Foodbank Australia's 2023 Hunger Report, which speaks of food insecurity as "waking early and sending your child off to school with a rumbling tummy and empty lunch box because you've been forced into an impossible choice between paying the rent or buying food for that week". It is confronting to hear stories of "living at home alone as a pensioner, convincing yourself that three meals a day is luxury and that two – or even one – will suffice", and parents foregoing meals so that their children can eat. If we conjure images of Sr Mary Glowrey's lighthouse glowing with hope in times of darkness, we are inspired to do our best in response to the reminder that actions and words, which may well be modest, quiet and small, can make a huge difference in the world.

We remind our community today of Pope Francis's hope that Churches from across the world might come together this evening to pray for peace. Our solidarity with others strengthens prayer. We invite you to turn your thoughts to Palestine, Israel and Ukraine and the humanitarian crisis that destroys the future in these places of conflict. A candle brings light to darkness and symbolises hope; consider lighting one today as part of your family prayer ritual.

Carmen Ahearn  
Head of Culture and Identity

### **Music News**

Congratulations to Kirby, our first student to work towards and sit an AMEB (Australian Music Education Board) Theory examination and pass with flying colours! She worked on this above and beyond any subject area and was able to sit the examination online. It is wonderful to see Kirby supplementing her music learning by improving upon her theoretical knowledge. Any student interested in working towards a theory examination should speak to Ms Townsend.



From the Wellbeing Team

### **Hats and Our SunSmart Policy**

Another set of reminders about four quick SunSmart matters:

- An Iona hat is required to be worn during breaks 1 and 2, outdoor PE, excursions and GISSA sport.
- Hats are available here at school (you are welcome to pay over the phone) and at our uniform provider PSW (164 Malop Street Geelong).
- Sunscreen is available for all students at Student Reception, Main Reception and via staff on yard duty – we all now carry some in our first aid bum bags.
- We will be conducting a check of all hats this coming Tuesday (31/10) and issuing non-flags to students without a hat at school.

We thank you for your ongoing support in this matter and please don't hesitate to contact me should there be any queries or concerns.

### **World Teachers' Day**

On this 'World Teachers' Day', we acknowledge the partnership we have with you, and our families, in supporting and challenging the young people in our Iona community to be the best versions of themselves. We appreciate the support we get from our parent/guardian body and know through experience that the best outcomes are achieved when there is clear communication between home and school.

Recall one of the most impactful teachers you had along your education journey. What was it they did? How did it feel to be in their presence? What did they say? A challenge to all reading this – see if you can encapsulate the lived qualities of the teacher you have in mind over the coming months as you walk alongside your young person; bring the gift they gave to you to the table for your loved ones. Also, if you have the time or inclination, reach out to a former great teacher and let them know what they did for you – I'm sure it will be appreciated!

### **Chewing Gum**

Unfortunately, we are finding more and more chewing gum on the concrete outside and in our buildings. We addressed this with students this week and want to make it clear that as a school body, we are all aware that chewing gum is banned from our school grounds. If a student is found to be breaking this rule they will be issued a flag and lunchtime reflection session. As adults we know that it's not 'the chewy' that is the problem, it's the person deciding to drop it/litter, however, unfortunately, we need a blanket rule on this to help preserve our school grounds and save time and costs associated with trying to remove it.

### **Podcast Recommendations**

Real STUFF is a podcast by Hunter Johnson, Founder and CEO of The Man Cave. Whilst this podcast is no longer in production, some of the old episodes contain some food for thought around the concept of masculinity in our world today. [The podcast](#) also examines ways to help improve health and wellbeing for men, and those around them and tackles harmful stereotypes that are leading to poor outcomes for the community at large.

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

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

### Indonesian News

On Tuesday, our Year 9 Indonesian students journeyed to Melbourne for a day of cultural fun. At CERES the students were guided by Pak Sibuk and Ibu lin to create Batik, a traditional Indonesian art form, and to become “dalung” (puppeteers) with Wayang Kulit (shadow puppets).

The students walked away from the Islamic Museum of Australia with a deeper understanding of the major religion of Indonesia. They listened to a presentation about breaking stereotypes and respecting all people regardless of their religion. After the presentation, the students completed a self-guided tour worksheet where they roamed the five different galleries: faith, Islamic Contributions to Civilisation, Art, Architecture and Australian Muslim History.

It was a wonderful day for students and staff and complemented the units of study: “Ceremonies and Celebrations”, “Arts and Entertainment” and “Geography and Demography”.



Bu Haintz  
Indonesian Teacher

### Iona Equestrian Team

A couple of members of the Iona equestrian team headed out last week to compete in the Interschool Jumping competition at the Geelong Show.

Congratulations to Felicity Guye for taking out 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 55cm freshman's inter-school show jumping class with her horse Paris. Well done also to Casey Van Dreumel and her horse Issak, who competed in the 80cm class, after a challenge at the first jump which jeopardised a higher placing, she was able to finish in 12<sup>th</sup> position in a tough class. Congratulations to both girls and other school members who may have competed in open classes throughout the show.

Any students interested in finding out more about the Equestrian team please contact Mrs Huxtable or Miss OCallaghan.



#### Resource Centre- Assistance Needed

Would you or a family member like to be able to contribute more to life at the College? With so many new books arriving on our library shelves, we could use some help to get these new titles covered and out there for our students to read.

If you are one of those people who find covering books enjoyable, perhaps even fun, and you would like to help us out by volunteering to cover some books please contact us at [library@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:library@iona.vic.edu.au)  
\*All materials and equipment will be provided. \*All volunteers will be required to complete an induction process in accordance with College policy and have a valid Working With Children Check.

#### Art Department News

##### Year 8 Art Highlights

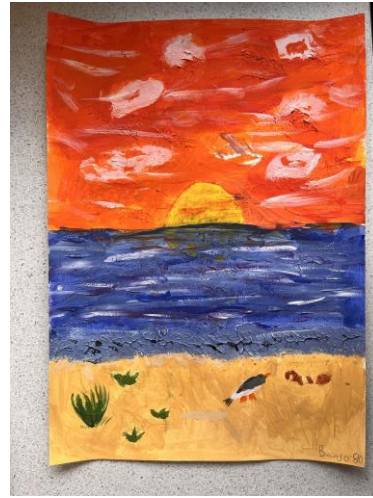
Illustrations of the Hooded Plover from Year 8 students.

**Materials:** Fineliner, markers, paints, paint mediums and coloured pencils

**Inspired by:** Students' own interpretation of a visual story, based on the theme of the Hooded Plover, an endangered species indigenous to this area.



Ava Carr



Banjo Perks



Isla Smitten



Luca Baker



Marlie Collett



Samuel Sharp



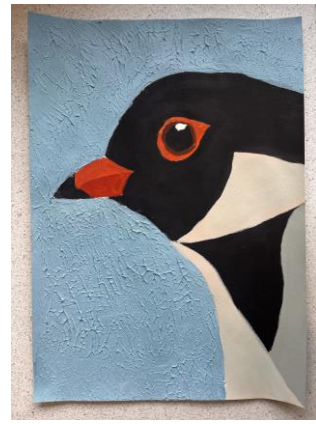
Scarlotte Benney



Sienna Bromley



Tahlia Maugeri



Aaylah Brockenshire



Addison Leigh

## Year 9 Art Highlights

Today we would like to profile three more Year 9 VCD Design our World student's folios. These folios are a great representation of our young artist's exploration of other Artists' styles and techniques to help them develop skills for their final artwork pieces.

- 1) [Charlotte Belleville Year 9 VCD Design our World Folio](#)



- 2) [Patrick O'Kane Year 9 VCD Design our World](#)



- 3) [Ava Saw Year 9 VCD Design our World](#)



## Mid Term Break

A reminder that Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of November is the designated mid term break for students and Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> is the Melbourne Cup holiday. The College will be closed on these two days.

Damian and Ashley