

24 November 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

We remind families that we are collecting gift cards for our Christmas Appeal. These cards go to MacKillop Family Services who do an incredible job of supporting families with complex needs often leading to unsafe and unstable home environments. Sometimes children and young people are unable to remain at their family home and may be placed in out of home care, where volunteer carers take on temporary care of these vulnerable youngsters. Carers receive a very small amount of financial support so that they can provide daily essentials, but this support does not extend to gifts or wants. The gift cards that we gather, will be distributed by Mackillop so that young people have a gift at Christmas. Donors are giving much more than a shopping voucher; they are giving teens an opportunity to be like other teens, they are gifting them 'choice' and they are gifting the experience of shopping and making decisions.

This year, every gift card donation will receive one entry in the draw to win a 2023 signed Geelong Cats guernsey! Regardless of the possibility of winning this prize, we would love to finish the school year in the spirit of doing good for others for need our help, particularly children and teens, so we encourage families to consider donating. Gift cards of any value can be taken to the Community Group between now and Wednesday 6th December.

Families may like to read more about [MacKillop Families Services](#) and make a direct donation to support their work.



The poster features a teal background with white snowflakes. In the top left corner is the MacKillop Family Services logo. In the top right is a circular photo of two young women wearing Santa hats and smiling. In the center, the Iona College Geelong logo is above the text 'Christmas Giving Appeal' in large red font. Below this, a white circle contains the text: 'Thanks for donating a gift card which will bring joy to a teen living in foster care in the Geelong region'. At the bottom left is an image of a blue and white striped Guernsey with 'Ford' written on it. At the bottom right, the text reads: 'YOU CAN WIN TOO! Each gift card = one entry in the draw to win a signed 2023 Geelong Cats guernsey!'.

Summer Soiree

Thank you to all of the Iona College parents and friends who attended the "Summer Soiree" last night where we were once again entertained by our very talented musicians. It is wonderful to see the College grow across numerous areas including music and the arts. Thank you to our Director of Music, Ms. Townsend, for all that she continues to do in support of our students in this space.



Year 9 & 10 Exams

This week our students undertook exams in Years 9 & 10. This was a valuable opportunity to familiarise themselves with exam conditions, which will be essential as they progress into their senior years. Thank you to all the College staff supporting the students through the exam week and Mrs McLaren, Mr Parker and the Learning Leaders team for their facilitation of exam arrangements.



Ignite Program

Late next week the 'Ignite' program commences for our current Year 10 students where they will make an early start on the VCE and Vocational learning subjects they will be undertaking next year. Again, there has been a lot of work by our VCE and Vocational Learning staff to ensure that there is a good start made to the individual study areas. Thank you again to Mr Parker, Ms. Carter-Blackhall, Mrs. McLaren, our College Learning Leaders, Mr. Cambridge our Timetabler and Ms. Wilson our Daily Organiser for their assistance in building the program structure. We wish our students every success as they undertake this program.

Celebration of Achievement

We look forward to gathering for our Celebration of Achievement taking place at the College next Thursday at 7 pm. This will be a chance to acknowledge students achieving academic and endeavour awards along with other important awards in music, the arts, sport and community/leadership endeavours. This event will also be live-streamed for those wishing to tune in, the link will be emailed on the day of the Celebration.

2024 Booklists

[Booklist information](#) has now been distributed to all families via email. The [following document](#) contains instructions for your young person's year level as well as a 'how to guide'. For students commencing years 9,10 and 11 in 2024, please take note of what electives your young person will be studying, as some items are a compulsory purchase. Elective information has been distributed to your young person.

For any further queries, please email the College Registrar, registrar@iona.vic.edu.au

From the Wellbeing Team

Getting the 'Controllables' Under Control to Finish the School Year

As a Wellbeing team, we regularly remind our students about narrowing their focus to the things that they can directly control, or the 'controllables'. We encourage you to continue this conversation at home as we support our young people to have the best possible end to the academic year.

Some examples include:

- Getting to class on time – ensure that students have an organised locker, that they move to their locker when music commences to signal the end of break time, and that they get to their classroom before the bell to ensure they don't incur penalties for being late to class (i.e. breach 1 – non-flag, breach 2 – flag).
- Using the toilet during break time - this is the time for our students to go to the toilet; in order to significantly reduce the chance of needing to do so during class time.
- Uniform – ensuring that piercings are in line with our school policy, correct shoes are being worn with formal uniforms, Iona socks only with our PE uniform, etc.
- Completion of homework and study for tests/exams– ensuring that their school bag is packed, they take their bag home, open it, take out equipment, sit in a chair and do the work; simple in theory, more complicated in practice! Students need to keep working on establishing routines and a mindset that ensures homework is a non-negotiable each night, even if it is a revision of what has been covered in class earlier that day. This is particularly important as we approach the end of the academic year and students have numerous tasks due or assessment tasks on the horizon.
- Seeking support – students should always let someone know, preferably a trusted adult, that they are struggling; we reminded students that we are here to support them should they ever need it.



Upcoming Seminar on 'School Refusal' for Parents/Carers

The Cottage Medical Centre is hosting an information session on School Refusal in young people. This event will be hosted by Leilani Wright, Provisional Psychologist. Leilani has 10 years experience in school counselling and wellbeing in secondary school students. Additionally, Leilani has been working in the private practice setting since 2020. Leilani's main client concern is around anxiety school refusal behaviours and the daunting task of returning to school. It is crucial to equip families and schools with the tools needed to support a successful transition or return to school, in order for students to flourish in their environment while maintaining mental wellness. Parents/carers will be informed by evidence-based research and equipped with the resources to begin their journey in working together with school staff to support a young person's engagement for the 2024 school year. For more information please view their [online brochure](#).

Podcast Recommendations – 'Pop Culture Parenting'

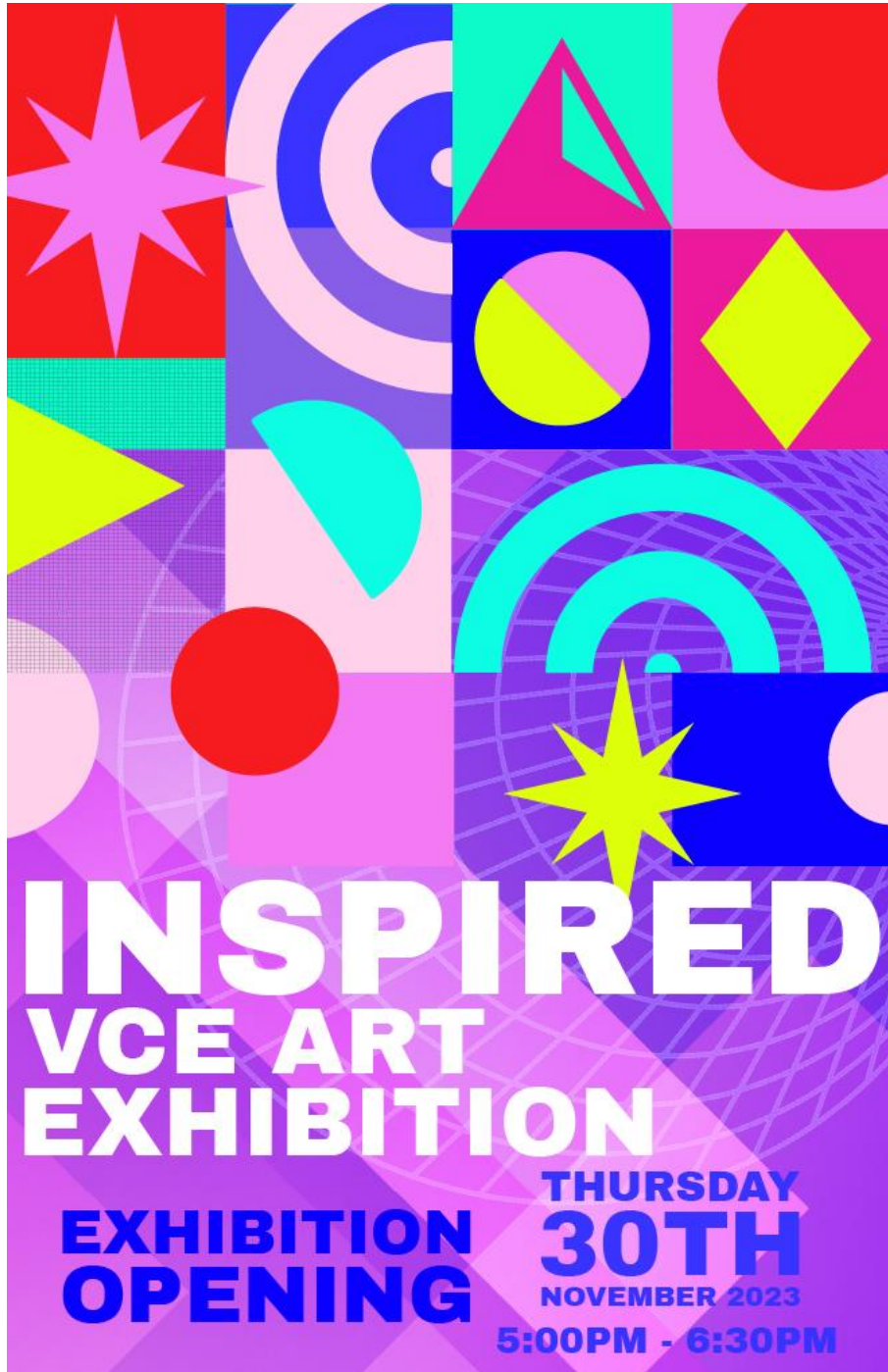
Several of our staff have found numerous episodes of the popular podcast 'Pop Culture Parenting' particularly helpful in their professional and personal development.

[This week Nick and Dr. Billy](#), the hosts of the show, chat about the amazing movie Thelma & Louise, and how it relates to mental illness and then dive into a practical approach to supporting kids who are struggling. Lots to take from this one!

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

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

Upcoming VCE Art Exhibition



INSPIRED
VCE ART
EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION
OPENING

THURSDAY
30TH
NOVEMBER 2023
5:00PM - 6:30PM

Active and Able: Year 10 HPE Elective

Next Tuesday 28th November, our Year 10 Active and Able class will be participating in the Paralympian Education Program with a local Paralympian, [Ella Sabljak](#).

Councillor Trent Sullivan, the Mayor of Geelong, will join us to listen to the inspiring Paralympic story of our guest speaker, Ella. Our Year 10 Active and Able class have been selected to help Travis Zimmer (Sport 4All Inclusion Coach for Greater City of Geelong) to create a promotional showcase on how Sport4All supports schools in the space of creating an opportunity for more inclusion and opportunity in sport for all.

Along with Ella, Trent Sullivan The Mayor and Travis Zimmer an inclusion Coach, we will have an external film crew on site for the session to collect footage and photos of our Paralympian Education Incursion. This presents a fantastic opportunity, not just for Iona College, but also as a remarkable platform to highlight Sport4All and the Paralympic movement. As athletes gear up for Paris 2024, it's a chance to showcase the inclusivity, accessibility and adaptability of Parasport to a broader audience across the country, given the opportunity.

We look forward to this opportunity as a finale to our Active and Able Curriculum this semester.

Gina Oliver
Teacher

Music News

It was wonderful to be able to celebrate the musical achievements of so many last night at the Summer Soiree. Performances included our Concert Band and String ensemble, some 'new faces' and other students who are clearly developing and refining their skills. Thank you to all the students who performed, their teachers and of course their parents for supporting their musical journey. If your child is interested in becoming involved in our Music Program please read through the [Music Brochure](#) and email me with any questions.

It is so pleasing to see such great growth in our young musicians. Their progress is a testament to their consistent courage and tenacity – congratulations everyone.

Combined Schools Musical

We have received further information from Clonard regarding the Combined Schools Musical for 2024. Auditions will now take place at the beginning of 2024.

All the details can be found online via the [following document](#) provided by Clonard.

Wesley College Glen Waverly Visit Iona

On Friday the 10th of November we were blessed to have musicians from Wesley College Glen Waverly campus joining us for the afternoon. It was another occasion where our Concert Band musicians were given the opportunity to play with other musicians under the guidance of a different conductor. Wesley delighted us with a concert showcasing their Concert Band and Choir and our musicians were able to join in with one song. Sharing and making music with others is such a wonderful experience and we would like to thank the Wesley College students and staff for putting Iona on their tour schedule.



Jodie Townsend
Teacher / Music / Innovation Leader (Pedagogy & Instruction)

Viqueque Donations

Do you have any stationery (unused), calculators, sports equipment or something you think the young people of Viqueque, Timor Leste might get use out of?

A member of the Geelong-Viqueque Friendship Schools Association is sending over a box of supplies and hoping to fill it! If you have any items worthwhile, please give them to your young person to drop off at Bu Haintz in room B21.

Art Department News

Our Year 8 Art students have been working on a Tin Can challenge. It has been wonderful to see how creative our students can be!



Shark – Asha Read



Dragon – William Bainbridge



Lizard – Lily McCrohan



Dog – Olive Beadle



Ladybird – Alice Rittinger



Butterfly – Alexis Goette



Car – Levi McDermott



Slinky Dog – Liam Hawkes

Year 8 Drama



This term in Drama, Year 8 students have been exploring the rich and wonderful world of Shakespeare. We have played with characters, and language and explored the history of Shakespeare's time. All the while exploring the timeless tales of star-crossed lovers, tragic heroes, and mischievous fairies, the Year 8 students have engaged in a broad study of Shakespeare's plays. The culmination of this unit was the performance of one of his plays. These included; Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, The Tempest, and A Midsummer Night's Dream. Overall, this was about exposure and experiencing the world of Shakespeare whilst having fun. All of which I believe were achieved!

Tessa Dunstan
Teacher

Farwell to our First Exchange Student

This week, we say goodbye to our first exchange student, Camill Bousaidi from France. He had a wonderful time at Iona and in Australia. Mrs. Jacqueline Huxtable, his Food Tech teacher, shared how he introduced the class to French foods and was surprised by the creations made in Food Tech. The class celebrated his farewell with icy poles and Chumpa lollipops in their final Food Tech class.



Dates to Remember

Lunchtime Concert	Monday 27 November
Carols@Iona	Wednesday 6 December – 6 pm
End of School Mass – Formal Uniform Day	Thursday 7 December
Final Day of Term 4	Thursday 7 December, 3:05 finish

Thanks for your support,

Damian and Kylie