

8 December 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

At our End of Year Mass yesterday, Fr Jim spoke to our students about waiting and “staying awake” so they wouldn’t miss encounters with God. He encouraged our community to be a ‘Santa’ for others and enter the Christmas season to do good for others and extend their thoughts beyond themselves. Our celebration of mass with its joyous music, thought-provoking words, active student leadership and moments of reflection, was the perfect end to a wonderful 2023.



We thank our students and families for such generous support of our Christmas Appeal where the value of gift cards donated was an incredible \$2635! We are so proud of the ever-growing spirit of giving and care for others which have become defining characteristics of our Iona community. We continue to show that we are people of compassion, and we recognise the efforts of parents who lead their young ones to respond with kindness and love to the needs of others. The gift cards have been taken to MacKillop Family Services today for distribution to vulnerable young people during the Christmas season.

We had lots of hopeful gift card donors, keen to win the incentive prize of the signed 2023 AFL Geelong guernsey. This was gifted to us from Give Where You Live as a reward for our enormous Feed Geelong fundraising efforts, where we raised the most money of any organisation across the Geelong region. Staff member, Ms Anthea Sholl, was the lucky winner of the guernsey and she is very excited to find a special place for it in her home.



On behalf of the young people cared for by MacKillop Family Services, and the recipients of our other 2023 social justice efforts, including Caritas Australia, St Mary's Uganda, Opening the Doors Foundation, Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools, Refugees and Asylum Seekers and Geelong Mums, we express our gratitude to our students, parents and carers for all that they have contributed to addressing disadvantage. Donations of money, goods and time, alongside efforts to learn about and advocate for others, have had a significant positive impact on the lives of others.

Carmen Ahearn
Head of Culture and Identity

Carols@Iona

We were delighted to host our inaugural Carols@Iona event and grateful for the community's enthusiastic participation. We'd like to offer a special thanks to Ms. Jodie Townsend, her team, the superb Iona singers and musicians, as well as the volunteers for orchestrating a joyful evening of face painting, carols, dancing and overall merriment. It was a night to remember!





Sunday Mass is coming to Iona in 2024

Our College is located in Nazareth Catholic Parish which supports faith life in the areas of Torquay, Anglesea and Grovedale. Currently, masses in our parish are held at St Therese Torquay, St Christopher's Anglesea and Nazareth Grovedale at various times over each weekend <https://tagparish.com.au/>. Fr Linh, Parish Priest, warmly invites us all, with our families and friends, to the upcoming Nazareth Parish Christmas masses. Please find details below:

A message from Nazareth Catholic Parish Priest

Against the backdrop of conflict and war in different parts of our world, Christmas reminds us of the gifts of God's peace and love to all.

As we yearn for peace in every corner of the world, I think of you all: parishioners, families, and friends; especially those who are struggling and caught up in life's difficulties.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Emmanuel, God-is-with-us, may you and your family truly find peace, be deep in faith, constant in hope and fervent in love.

Fr Linh Tran

We would love to see you join us at Mass

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th Dec
5pm & 9pm - St Therese Church, Torquay
7pm - Nazareth Church, Grovedale
(carols begin 6.45pm)

Christmas Day Monday 25th Dec
8.45am - St Therese Church, Torquay
10.30am - Nazareth Church, Grovedale
10.30am - St Christopher's Church, Anglesea

Normal Weekend Mass Times
Saturday 6pm St Christopher's Church, Anglesea
Sunday 8.45am St Therese Church, Torquay
Sunday 10.30am Nazareth Church, Grovedale



Picture: Our Lady of the Streets original painting by Robert Ferruzzi 1897 reproduced in fine sand and gemstone.

We are very pleased that an additional Nazareth Parish Mass, for the growing local community, will commence on Sunday 18th February 2024 here at Iona College. Mass will begin at 9 am in the Resource Centre and will be held on the third Sunday of each month. We would love to see some of our families join us for this regular mass. This Mass is provided by the Parish for all families who live in the Armstrong Creek and the surrounding area and for those who find this a more suitable time for their needs. A reminder will be provided early in the new school year.

Student Leaders Announcement



2024 Student Leaders

Congratulations

At the End of Term Assembly, we proudly announced our Student Leaders for 2024. Elected by their peers, these leaders embody a student-driven initiative. Congratulations to all! We eagerly anticipate seeing you thrive in your roles.

The Student Leaders are as follows:

Culture, Identity and Justice Leaders

- Stella Rose
- Oscar Dawber
- Gursagun Sidhu
- Evie McNamara

The Culture, Identity and Justice Leaders will work alongside the following student leader team:

Sarah Skene	Asher Wescott
Ngahuia Puru	Alexandra McIntosh
Josephine Leonard	Nicola Van Der Meer
Evelyn Calvert	Alice Wolter
Abbie Clarke	Joseph Wood
William Campbell	

Environment Leaders

- Josephine Turner-Leonard
- Evelyn Calvert
- Ariella Chappell
- Samuel Sharp

The Environment Leaders will work alongside the following student leader team:

Vincent Lacorte	Billy Connor-Cabrie
Naomi Rijnvis	Charlotte Jackson
Bethany Harper	Annie Leonard
Eva Trotter	Lilly Clark

Sport and PE Leaders

- Mitch Penrice
- Ava Tadich
- Harry Ford
- Kezia Berends
- Phil Wickham
- Evie Chalmers
- Isaac Curavic
- Lily McCrohan

The Sport and PE Leaders will work alongside the following student leader team:

Fletcher Rundle	Max Dillon	Angus Reid
Sienna Bromley	Pearl Thompson	Zack Waterson
Ella Trotter	Amelia Clarke	Darbi Webber
Oscar James	Ruby Mensch	Isaac West
Aaron Deb	Tahlia Kalaitzidis	Aurora Aldersley

The House Sports Representatives for 2024 are:

- Thomas Smith
- Blaire Durran
- Jordan Penrice
- Tai Stewart
- Lylah Rickard
- Charlotte Brereton
- Chloe Phillips
- Charli Primus
- Emily Howes

Wellbeing Leaders

- Paris Mahoney
- Thomas Smith
- Alice Wolter

The Wellbeing Leaders will work alongside the following student leader team:

Marlee Sammut	Lucy McLaughlin	Joseph Goodwin
Chloe Farrar	Saira Philip	Diaz McKay-Borg
Isla Cameron	Caleb Conway	Ruvi Mpofu
Mia Farrelly	Lola Cherubin	Eliza Nielson
Amelia Gemes	Teagan Van der Vliet	

Diversity Leaders

- Ngahuia Puru
- Aidan Heffer

The Diversity Leaders will work alongside the following student leader team:

Allec Slater **Lola Lancaster**

Learning Leaders

- Annie Reimann
- Nicola Van Der Meer
- Kirby Reynolds
- Harrison Aisbett
- Gabby Djurdjinovic

The Learning Leaders will work alongside the following student leader team:

Georgia Fisher **Max O'Donnell**

Arts and Technology Leaders

- Jessica Aisbett
- Joel Prince
- Sabine Chappell
- Georgia Fisher

The Arts and Technology Leaders will work alongside the following student leader team:

Owen Davies	Xander Vahland
Tiana Le	Ethan Brooker
Archie Dickinson	Jimmy Benne
Keenan West	Imogen Heffer
Lilly Chambers	Maya Dawkins
Nellie Bishop	

Performing Arts Leaders

- Asher Wescott
- Alexandra McIntosh
- Joseph Goodwin

The Performing Arts Leaders will work alongside the following student leader team:

Tom Downing	Ainsleigh Gray
Zoe Gullo	

End of Semester Statement of Results

The 'End of Semester Statements of Results' will be available via PAM on the afternoon of Wednesday 13th December. An email will be sent to notify parents and carers when they are available. For each subject studied by a student this semester, the following information will appear:

- A course synopsis
- The student's level of achievement against the Victorian and Religious Education curriculum standards
- The student's learning behaviours and work habits
- An attendance summary

Please note that this Statement of Results is intended for parents and carers and provides a snapshot of learning in specific curriculum areas. The level of achievement against the curriculum standards does not need to be shared directly with your child and is not intended to make comparisons with other students. We encourage parents and carers to have constructive conversations about learning behaviours using the feedback provided by teachers.

At Iona, we use an ongoing reporting process via PAM to parents and SIMON to students. On these platforms, parents and students can regularly check in and view more specific and thorough feedback and levels of achievement on individual class and assessment tasks.

Anthea Sholl
Innovation Leader (Feedback, Assessment & Reporting) / Science

2024 Bus Information Has Been Released

Parents and carers of all students requiring the Iona College (private) bus service to travel to and from school were emailed progressively over Friday (1/12), Monday (4/12) and Tuesday (5/12) with details of their young one's allocated bus routes for 2024. Please ensure that you thoroughly check your SPAM or Junk folders for this email if you cannot see it in your Inbox – the email came from Carl.Jones@iona.vic.edu.au. Families requiring more than one bus route to accommodate shared parenting of their young ones will have received two separate emails and these may have been sent out on different days.

Please either call or email our Bus Coordinator, Carl Jones, on (03) 5229-0004 (then Option 2) or conveyance@iona.vic.edu.au should you have any queries regarding your young ones' allocated bus route(s).

Carl Jones
Accounts Receivable & Transport Coordinator

First Aid Update – Updating Medical Records

All students who have a medical condition need to provide an action plan or a [medical management plan](#) signed by a medical practitioner.

Please ensure, your child has an up to date Action Plan for their condition or medical management plan, and is uploaded to PAM prior to school commencing in 2024. (E.g. Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, Epilepsy)

The Medical Management Plan is [available for download online](#).

Any medications to be administered during school hours including Panadol require a [Medication Authority Form](#). This must be completed in consultation with a medical practitioner or pharmacist and uploaded to PAM. (Any medications that appear on the action plan, for example, Ventolin, do not need a form.)

The Medication Authority Form is [available for download online](#).

A Student support plan will be created and sent via a digital signature platform in January to be signed early in the school year.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas and a safe break. For any concerns please contact email medical@iona.vic.edu.au

Kate Every
College Nurse

Chrissie McPhan
Medical Support Officer

Give the greatest gift of all: the gift of life.

Did you know that this Summer, whilst you are enjoying a Christmas party with family and friends, or a round of cricket at the beach, every 18 seconds, a blood donation will be needed in Australia? Please consider booking in to give blood or plasma during these school holidays.

Your blood or plasma donation could be the gift of life to someone going through cancer treatment, or to help someone else to get through a difficult childbirth; and or even to someone to help manage their immune disease.

In fact, thousands of people across Australia will be getting together with their family, friends and community this festive season all thanks to donated blood — and blood donors.

Whether it's your first time or 101st time, it's always a gift at the top of someone's wish list. When you give blood this month, you'll score a festive limited-edition bandage designed by Madeliene Stamer. It's Lifeblood's little way of saying thank you. The Geelong Blood Donor Centre is located at 237 Ryrie Street, Geelong. It is open 7 days a week.

Resource Centre News

What a wonderful first year we have had in our Resource Centre. We have responded to countless student IT assistance requests, hosted heaps of events from staff meetings to referendum voting and had students in before and after school, for classes and during break times to read, work and play games.

Our Library collection has grown from a couple of shelves of donated books that were very gratefully received, to a collection of books and other resources that are customized to our students and curriculum. We have been pleased to see great student use of the library services over the year with many students taking up the opportunity to borrow books to read over the holidays and to have a say in what they would like to see on the library shelves.

We look forward to more adventures in the Resource Centre in 2024 and wish all of our students and their families a joyous and safe Christmas and holiday season.



Sharon Cuthbertson
Resource Assistant

Music News

AMEB Examinations

Congratulations to Kirby and Lucinda on successfully passing their recent AMEB Violin Examinations. Such a great achievement and we are all very proud of you both. AMEB examinations are a wonderful way to focus your young person's musical journey. If you are interested in finding out more about these please contact me in 2024.

Carols@Iona

Thank you so much to the whole Iona community for supporting this wonderful event. I was so proud of the many performers and the manner in which they participated. Congratulations to all those who participated and again, a big thank you to everyone who supported the event – such a collaborative effort to host this event.

Combined Schools Musical

We have received more information regarding the upcoming Combined Schools Musical for 2024 and audition information has now been released. If anyone is interested in being a part of the musical please take a look at this [exciting announcement which includes information on how to apply for an audition](#). We hope to see some Iona faces in this production.

Jodie Townsend

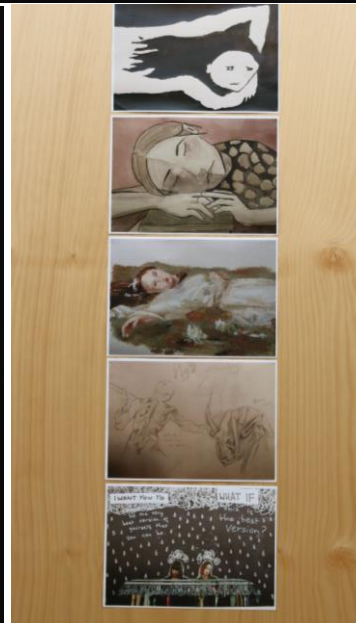
Teacher / Music / Innovation Leader (Pedagogy & Instruction)

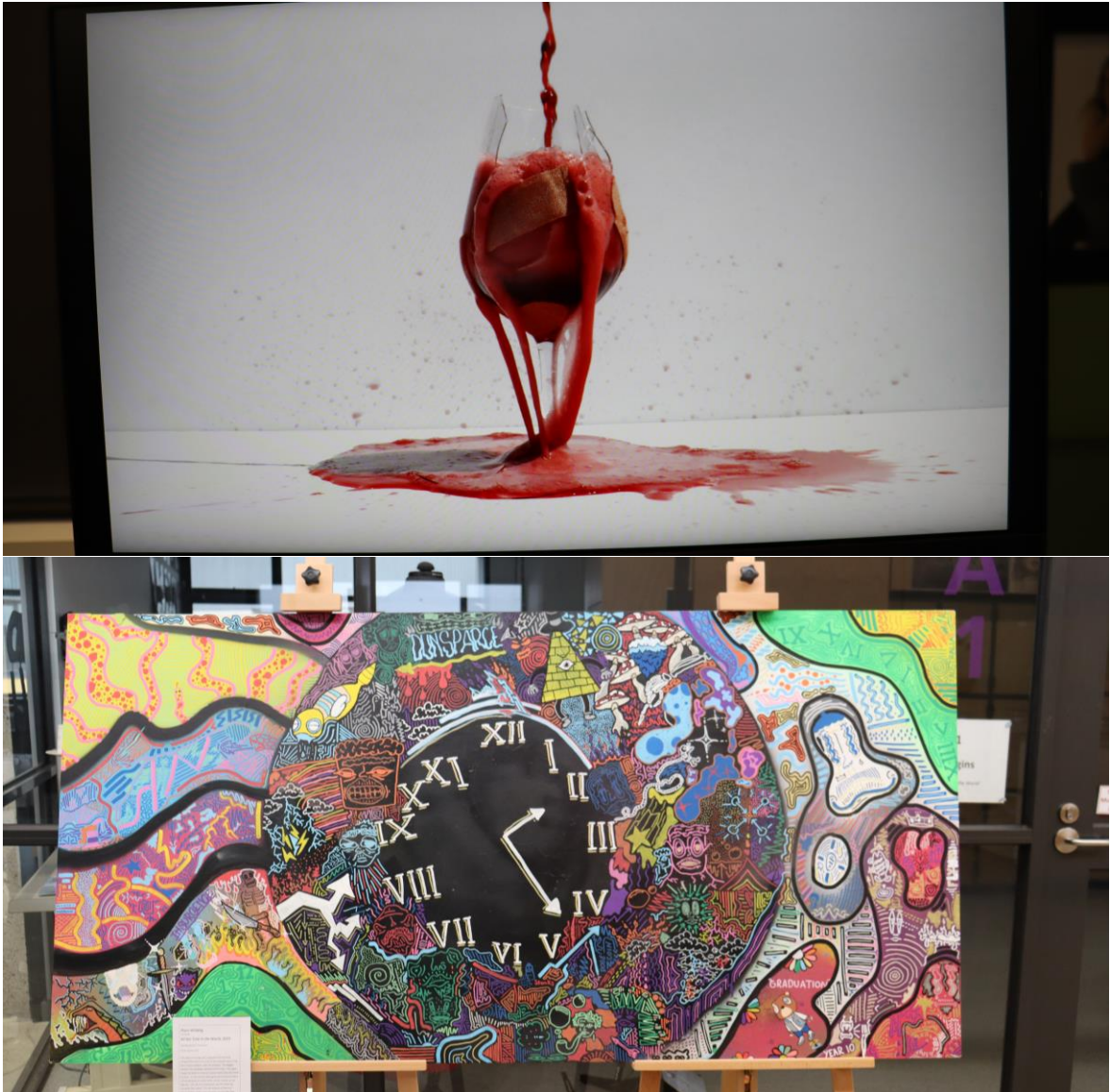
Art Exhibition Opening

We were thrilled to showcase our students' outstanding work at last week's VCE Art Exhibition. Here's a glimpse of the exhibited pieces.









Dates of Importance

Please note that the front office's official closure date is Wednesday 13 December at 4 pm. College personnel will not be accessible after this date. The College office will reopen on Monday 22 January 2024.

For Year 7 (2024) students and students new to other year levels at Iona, the first day at Iona is on Wednesday 31 January. All other returning students (Year 8-11) will resume on Thursday, February 1.

Best Wishes as we conclude the 2023 School Year

As we formally finish our school year with our students, we express our deep gratitude to all who have contributed to our school community over the year. We wish to express our deepest gratitude to the parents and guardians who entrust us with the education and well-being of your children and young people. Your support is invaluable, and it is the partnership between home and school that truly makes a difference in the lives of our students.

We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the entire College Teaching and Support Staff for their efforts throughout 2023. Each day, our teachers go above and beyond, not only fulfilling their roles as educators but also serving as mentors, guides, and sources of inspiration. They invest not only their time but also their passion and energy to create an environment where curiosity is nurtured, and potential is unlocked.

Our support staff continually go above and beyond in each of the roles that they undertake. Their efforts ensure that all of those activities associated with schools, outside of teaching, continue to be met with passion and commitment.

We would also like to thank the members of the Iona College Advisory Council. Our Council continues to work towards ensuring our school places the student at the Centre of all that we do. Of course, at the Centre of all we do are our students. Our students are the reason that Iona exists! We thank you for sharing your talents with us this year and as we bid farewell to this academic year, let us do so with a sense of accomplishment, gratitude, and anticipation for the exciting journey that lies ahead. Thank you for being a part of our school family, and I look forward to welcoming you all back for another year of growth, learning, and success in 2024.

We wish you a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Damian and Kylie