

15 February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

At our student-led Ash Wednesday Assembly/Liturgy, our Chisholm students launched our Term One fundraising efforts, which support the Feeding Program at St Mary's Primary School, Kabuuta Kiruuli, Uganda, and Caritas Australia.



Our Guest Speaker, Dr Conor McDonald, spoke to our students and staff about true compassion which “is born out of loving one another”. Dr Conor established the Mission Mannya Project which provides medical care to those who are isolated, impoverished and vulnerable in Mannya Parish, Uganda, where St Mary's Primary School is located. Mission Mannya provides medical, dental and nutritional care through makeshift outreach clinics, free of charge, with the help of volunteer Australian doctors and medical students, who work alongside local medical staff. In November of last year, Mission Mannya visited 6 different towns over 10 days and treated 1783 people who would otherwise have had no access to basic health care. On this visit, like others, the team saw the horrific effects of poor nutrition and limited access to proper food, which leads to preventable diseases, poor growth, disfigurement and even death.



Dr Conor praised the schools in Mannyra Parish who work hard to address the nutritional needs of children and encouraged our students to continue to fundraise for the Feeding Program which “changes lives, day in, day out”. He spoke of children in Uganda who see a healthy meal as a “faraway dream”, which is true for the children of St Mary’s Primary School. It has a student population of approximately 350 children who are some of the poorest children in the world. While Mission Mannyra focuses on health care, Iona Term One fundraising efforts fund a daily meal for St Mary’s students. Our donations are used to purchase maize, which is cooked into a porridge-like meal and served to the children at lunchtime. This meagre daily meal settles the children for learning, provides some nutrition and leads to a more hope-filled future.

We are inspired by the generosity of Dr Conor and those who work alongside him; their efforts to travel, fundraise and care for others, when their own daily lives continue to place demands on them is extraordinary. If you would like to listen to his inspiring address, take a look at our [Ash Wednesday Livestream](#), if you scroll to the 1 hour mark you will be able to hear what he had to say. Young people have great capacity to change the world and we have great hope that our Iona students recognized this as they listened to Dr Conor. The work of Mission Mannyra is remarkable and we encourage our families to check out their [Instagram page](#).

As is our Iona tradition, we will raise funds for our Ugandan friends with a ‘bigger-than-ever’ Easter raffle this year! We ask that over the coming weeks, families donate an Easter egg and sell the raffle tickets that will come home with students this Thursday. Main Reception staff will collect egg donations (up until Mon 25th March) and sold raffle tickets with money (up until Wed 27th March). The bumper raffle draw will take place on the final day of this term. We would love parent helpers to assist with making up the raffle hampers as the time draws nearer, but further details will come in later editions of the Weekly News. Please see our step-by-step reference showing how our Easter raffle works:



IONA
COLLEGE
GEE LONG

**TERM ONE
COMPASSION ACTION**

SUPPORT ST MARY'S FEEDING PROGRAM

DONATE AN EGG

TAKE TO MAIN RECEPTION BY MON 25 MARCH

SELL RAFFLE TIX

RETURN TIX AND \$\$ TO MAIN RECEPTION
BY WED 27 MARCH

**WIN EASTER EGGS!
RAFFLE DRAWN... 28 APRIL**

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SUPPORT CARITAS VIA PROJECT COMPASSION

DONATE VIA QR CODE
OR THE BOX IN
COMMUNITY GROUP



This term we will also collect donations for Project Compassion which enables Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local and international communities to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. Caritas Australia assists through income generation, water and sanitation, food security, education and disaster risk reduction programs. Their work empowers communities towards positive change. Students are welcome to donate cash into the collection boxes in Community Groups but knowing that cash can be hard to come by, there is also the option to scan the QR code below and donate online. Many families, through their school and parish connections, would be familiar with the annual fundraising efforts of Project Compassion, and we ask that during Lent, you consider a small donation to support the work of Caritas.



Carbon Fast for Lent

Fasting is one element of the Lenten season. This does not necessarily mean fasting from food. Fasting is about consciously removing something from our lives to consciously include something which makes a difference in the world. A suggestion for this year is to join the [Carbon Fast](#) which is focused on care for the environment. Our small actions during Lent can make a difference to our imprint on our precious world.

Mass at Iona this Sunday

A reminder that Fr Linh from Nazareth Parish will celebrate Mass in the Resource Centre at 9 am this Sunday. This is not just for Iona families. It is a Parish Mass and all are welcome.

Parent/Carer Welcome Evening

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended the information sessions held for each year level last night and tonight. It was wonderful to see so many turn out to meet their young person's coordinator and Community Group Teacher. Thank you to Mr Durran for his Coordination of the two evenings and to Mrs Cole and the Administration team who assisted with the organization of hospitality.



Traffic Management at Iona

As you are aware, the Surfcoast Highway has been closed just past Baanip Boulevard until the Labor Day weekend in March. This has placed major pressure on Horseshoe Bend Road, now one of the accessible roads between Geelong and Torquay. We have managed to secure traffic management support from 8.20 – 9 am in the morning and 2.50-3.30 pm in the afternoon, which allows for bus and parent arrivals and departures. Whilst this has improved traffic flow, there is still a need for vigilance and caution due to the amount of traffic using this road. We strongly advise against any student trying to cross Horseshoe Bend Road on foot and have offered families living in the immediate area bus transportation whilst the diversion of traffic is in place. We also ask for your patience and understanding whilst we attempt to keep all members of our community safe.



Release of 2024 Fee Statements & Payment Information

Iona College issued its 2024 Fee Statement to parents/carers late Wednesday afternoon (14/2) with a secondary email sent out the following morning covering the various payment options available and attaching a Direct Debit Request form. If you have not seen these emails appear in your Inbox, please check your Junk folder or SPAM.

Maths @ Iona

Maths Enrichment Opportunity

On **Tuesday 26th March**, students at Iona College Geelong will be participating in the Kangourou Sans Frontieres – the largest online mathematics competition in the world!

We would love to encourage as many students as possible to register for this opportunity. The competition will take up to 75 minutes and various year levels will complete it throughout the day. If you like to try new things, challenge yourself and have a passion for problem solving, I encourage you to give this a go! This is open to every student at Iona College!

Parents can complete the [following form](#) below to register their child:

Students and parents from Years 9 and 10 who are currently taking advanced mathematics classes will have received an email with a link to register. It is an expectation of the school that as part of their advanced studies these students participate.

Any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at louise.keating@iona.vic.edu.au

Ms Lou Keating
Learning Area Leader (Maths & Numeracy)

Iona Meet the Team



The graphic features the Iona College Geelong logo in the top left corner. Below it, the text 'IONA MEET THE TEAM' is displayed in large, bold, white letters on a blue background. Underneath, 'DEAN MILLARD' is written in a smaller, bold, blue font. A yellow box with the word 'Teacher' is positioned below his name. A quote in yellow text follows. On the right side of the graphic is a circular portrait of Dean Millard, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a black polo shirt and a blue lanyard with 'STAFF' written on it.

IONA MEET THE TEAM

DEAN MILLARD

Teacher

" Anyone can be a great learner but it gets easier when you shift your thinking from seeing the work as something you have to do towards seeing it as something you get to do. "

Introducing Dean Millard, one of our new dedicated 2024 Teaching team members. His teaching journey began while he was working as a journalist and coaching youth sports, where parents of the players he coached recognised his potential as an educator due to his positive rapport with the team. He commented, "I've always enjoyed helping young people to get the best out of themselves, and teaching was a logical next chapter for me to do that."

Dean's decision to join the Iona Team was motivated by his desire to relocate his family to Geelong to be closer to his extended family. He heard Mr. McKew on a podcast and felt that the College's vision aligned with what was important to him, and the rest is history. In particular, he was drawn to Iona's commitment to creating a supportive learning environment.

For Dean, the most rewarding aspect of teaching is, in his words, "When the intrinsic motivation to learn within students develops to the point that you know they will drive their own learning well beyond their time in my class. When you see that curiosity and energy to learn taking off, the learning journey becomes really fun." What a genuine sentiment of enticing the love of learning!

Outside of teaching, Dean shares his life with his wife Susan, also a teacher, and their children, Elsie and Charlie. A loyal supporter of Collingwood, he enjoys engaging in hobbies like gardening, watching footy, kayaking, fishing, and writing. His music taste varies from day to day, but some of his favourite bands include Gang of Youths, Sam Fender, The National, The Smith Street Band, and Rage Against The Machine. Dean is known for his epic dad jokes – we’re going to be testing this skill out!

His words of wisdom for our student body are, “If you focus on what you’re learning and put the work in to use to develop yourself, the grades and rewards will look after themselves. Anyone can be a great learner, but it gets easier when you shift your thinking from seeing the work as something you have to do towards seeing it as something you get to do.”

Dean, thank you for being such a fun team player. We are delighted to have you join the Iona team. We’re looking forward to hearing your dad jokes and seeing your passion for teaching thrive.

Dates to Remember in 2024

Date	Event
Wednesday 31 January	Year 7 and New Year 8-11 Students Commence
Wednesday 31 January	Year 7 & New Year 8-11 Students Smoking Ceremony - No Formal Uniform Required
Thursday 1 February	Year 8-11 Students Start
Thursday 1 February	Whole School Assembly - No Formal Uniform Required
Tuesday 6 February	Beginning of School Mass - Formal Uniform
Thursday 8 February	School Photo Day - Formal Uniform
Tuesday 13 February	School Photo Catch Up Day
Wednesday 14 February	Ash Wednesday Whole School Assembly - Formal Uniform
Wednesday 14 February	Year 8, 9 & 10 'In-Person' Parent Community Group Welcome Evening - 5:15 pm -7 pm
Thursday 15 February	Year 7 & 11 'In-Person' Parent Community Group Welcome Evening - 5:15 pm -7 pm
Wednesday 28 February	Swimming Carnival - Kardinia Aquatic Centre
Monday 4 March	Year 7 -11 'In-Person' Parent Session - Man Box with Drew Hanger, Resource Centre 6 - 7:30 pm
Monday 11 March	Labour Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 20 March	Student Progress Meetings
Friday 22 March	Student Free Day - Professional Development
Tuesday 26 March	Student Progress Meetings
Wednesday 27 March	Athletics Carnival - Landy Field
Thursday 28 March	Last Day of Term - 2:05 pm
Tuesday 16 April	Term 2 Begins

Thanks for your support,

Damian, Kylie and Melissa