

22 February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Tuesday, the world celebrated World Day of Social Justice which reminds us of the need to build fairer, more equitable societies. Social Justice means acting to ensure equality and dignity for all. It means a system is put in place to protect and aid people as they make choices and seek the creation of an environment which keeps people safe and helps them flourish. Pope Francis has Social Justice front of mind when he pleads for the protection of our common home that is threatened by climate change, and when he advocates for the protection and welcome of migrants and refugees. He is deeply concerned about what he describes as “the globalization of indifference”, calling on richer countries to take concrete action to help the poor. In this week of Lent, which is also focused on Social Justice, we aim to ‘better ourselves for the betterment of the world’. We encourage our families to pause and reflect on their treatment of each other. We hope that each day is a day when relationships with others and our planet are strengthened. We encourage each member of our community to engage in a Social Justice action aimed at assisting another.

As a reflection on Social Justice Day, our Iona Community Groups prayed together:

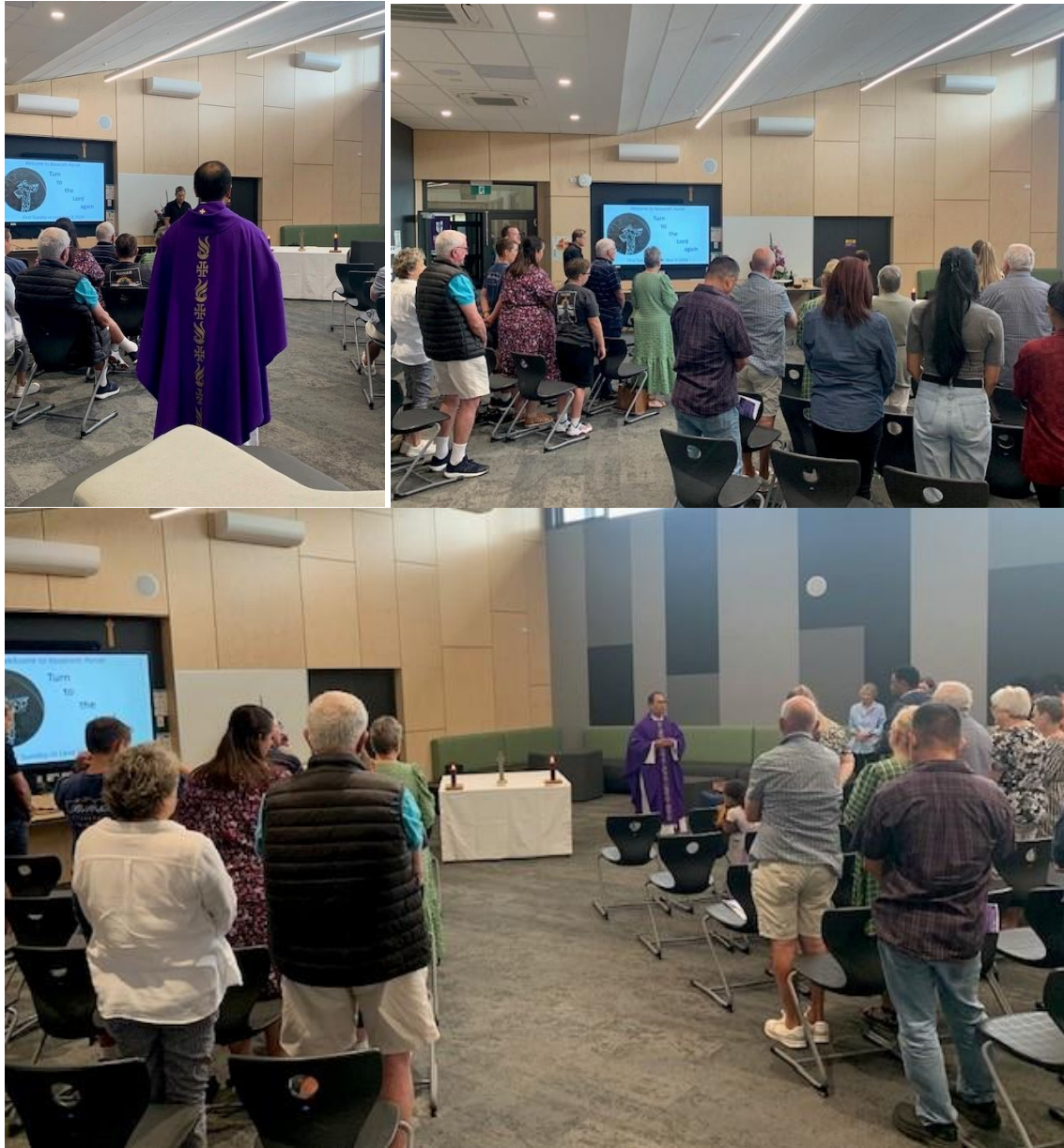
“God, fill our hearts with the fire of your love and with a firm commitment to bringing about greater justice for all beings. By sharing the many gifts we have been given, may we do our part to ensure equality for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world. With a growing awareness of our common home and of the one web of life in which we live, may we see fresh possibilities for responding each day with compassion and courage. May we renew our efforts to pray, advocate and work for an end to all forms of exploitation, injustice and suffering. We ask this, especially on this World Day of Social Justice. Amen”

Hopefully, raffle tickets arrived home late last week and students have sought out family and friends to buy tickets for our Easter raffle. Please send your egg donations and any sold raffle books to Main Reception over the coming weeks of Lent.

Project Compassion fundraising supports the work of Caritas Australia. Involvement in Caritas fundraising enables us to be part of a worldwide action of goodness which extends beyond today and positively impacts the lives of generations to come. We are grateful for small donations which can be made directly into the collection boxes in Community Groups or via the QR code below.



It was wonderful to welcome the Nazareth Parish community for their first mass here at Iona on Sunday. Fr Linh and the Parish Leadership team are very grateful for our hospitality as it means the celebration of Mass can be brought closer to the people living in the new suburbs surrounding the school. This mass will be held every third Sunday of the month at 9 am in the Resource Centre. All are welcome.



Traffic Update at Iona

The latest update regarding the Surf Coast Highway reopening states that it will occur on Thursday 7 March. We have two more weeks to navigate what are extreme traffic conditions around the College. The installation of temporary lights at the College gates has assisted with our ability to move traffic in and out of the College at peak times. Thank you for exercising patience in supporting the safety of all members of our College community.

Encounter Evening

Please find below details of an invitation from St. Christopher's Parish to 'Encounter,' an event aimed at youth. The event will take place on Sunday, February 25th, from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Please use the QR code provided below to register.



Give Where You Live/Kids+ Surf Coast Trek

Two of our Year 9 students, Darbi and Julia are participating in the Surf Coast Trek on April 13 to raise money for Give Where You Live and Kids+. The Surf Coast Trek involves a 26km or 40 km walk. For those interested in supporting Darbi and Jordan you can access their [fundraising page online](#).

Empowering Student Voice: A Journey at Iona College

At Iona College, we believe in the power of student voice and agency in shaping not only their own educational journey but also the broader college community. Recently, we've embarked on several initiatives aimed at enhancing student participation and empowerment within our College.

One significant step forward was the engagement of our student leaders in a full-day workshop conducted by the Life Changer Foundation. The workshop was focused on empowering our student leaders to envision their roles within the college community and set meaningful goals aligned with their portfolios. Through interactive sessions and hands-on activities, participants learned effective communication strategies to articulate their visions and goals with impact. This workshop not only equipped our student leaders with valuable skills but also fostered a sense of ownership and responsibility towards driving positive change within our college.



Last week, LifeChanger used one of our classes to showcase their collaboration with Cotton On's 'Stand Together' socks. 100% of the proceeds of these 'Stand Together' socks go towards Lifechanger delivering these important programs to schools. Take a look at their [short and sharp Instagram reel](#) featuring one of our Year 8 classes.

Our staff members have also been actively involved in reviewing curriculum documentation during recent staff meetings. The focus was on identifying learning experiences that actively incorporate opportunities for student decision-making, sharing opinions, peer feedback, self-reflection and engagement with external community partners. By embedding these elements into our curriculum, we aim to create an inclusive learning environment that empowers students to take ownership of their educational journey. It's not just about imparting knowledge but also about nurturing critical thinking skills and fostering a sense of autonomy among our students.

In addition to fostering collaboration within the classroom, educators at Iona College have actively forged partnerships with a range of external community organizations to enhance students' learning experiences. For instance, in outdoor education and environmental science classes, students have had the opportunity to collaborate with local entities such as the Great Ocean Road Authority and community environmental groups. Media studies and design technology have leveraged partnerships with industry professionals and cultural institutions. Students in these fields have had the unique opportunity to collaborate with organizations such as the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) and the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). In Health and Physical Education (HPE), partnerships with local sports centres and community organizations such as Sport4All have provided students with enriching opportunities for experiential learning and engagement. Collaborations with organizations such as Barwon Water and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) by our Humanities department have not only enriched students' understanding of health and wellness practices but have also provided valuable insights into community resilience and emergency preparedness.

These collaborative efforts with external community partners not only enrich students' educational experiences but also foster a sense of local engagement and social responsibility. By connecting classroom learning with real-world contexts and professionals, these partnerships empower students to make meaningful contributions to their communities and prepare them for future career pathways.

We understand that true empowerment comes from providing students with platforms to express themselves, make meaningful contributions and actively participate in shaping their educational experiences. By investing in initiatives like the LifeChanger Foundation workshop for student leaders and integrating student-centred learning approaches into our curriculum, we are committed to fostering a culture where every student's voice is heard and valued.

As we continue on this journey towards enhancing student voice and agency at Iona College, we remain dedicated to creating an environment where students feel empowered to drive positive change, both within our College and beyond.

Mr Sam Wood
Teacher / Head of Student Voice and Agency

Turning In To Teens Parenting Session

The popular parenting program 'Turning In To Teens' is coming to SCMBH in April. The program focuses on:

- Communicate more effectively with your teen
- understand your teen better
- Help your teen to manage those difficult emotions
- Help to prevent behavioural issues in your teen
- Teach your teen how to deal with conflict more effectively

For more information please take a look at [their program](#).

GISSA Surf Lifesaving



On Tuesday 20th February, 17 students from Years 7-10 attended Cosy Corner in Torquay to compete in the Life Saving Victoria School Surf League Competition. The events held across the day were - swim, board, aqua cameron relay, wade relay, beach flags, beach sprints and a beach relay. Some highlights were Max Flakemore winning the Year 7/8 Board race and the Year 9/10 boys team taking out their wade relay and beach relay. Geordi O'Shannessy added to the Year 9/10 boys team haul, finishing 2nd in the beach flags. Well done to all involved!

Maths @ Iona

Maths Enrichment Opportunity

Wow! Thank you and well done to all students who have registered for the KSF Maths Competition to be held on **Tuesday 26th March**! It's exciting to see many of our Iona students take up the opportunity to showcase bravery and a love of learning by challenging themselves in this way.

This opportunity is open to **all** students at Iona College. Registrations will close at 9:00 am Monday 26th February, so there is still some time for parents/carers to complete the [online form](#) to register your young person.

A reminder that students and parents/carers 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.

Middle Years Maths Program

If you have a Year 7 or Year 8 student at Iona you may have heard them speaking about our Middle Years Maths Program!

At Iona, we believe in ensuring all students have the core skills they need to expand their mathematical application and follow a mathematical pathway from Year 9 and beyond. We also believe in supporting and extending students at the level of their individual ability and understanding. These beliefs underpin our Years 7 and 8 Maths Program.

Our program is a combination of Maths Pathway FLEX and our own department designed explicit teaching method.

Each student in Years 7 and 8 is explicitly taught key content from the Victorian Curriculum 2.0 via their classroom maths teacher. Students are modelled examples and challenged to complete relevant questions to showcase understanding. On Maths Pathway FLEX these are shown as “**Explicit Exposure**”. Students need to complete the Explicit Exposure work in their grid book to move forward in the unit.

In addition to this explicit content, students are able to access relevant learning modules targeted at their ability. These are shown on Maths Pathway FLEX as “**Differentiated Mastery**”. Students are encouraged to complete **5** of these individual modules per Unit.

The image below shows you what your young person sees when they log in to their Maths Pathway account:

Exercise 2-1 Percentage Increase	Explicit Exposure	<div><div></div></div> 100%	Details
Exercise 2-2 Area of a Triangle	Differentiated Mastery	<div><div></div></div> 100%	Details
Exercise 2-3 Percentage Decrease	Explicit Exposure	Not yet started	
Exercise 2-4 Rotating Shapes	Differentiated Mastery	<div><div></div></div> 100%	Details
Exercise 2-5 Percentage of a Quantity	Explicit Exposure	<div><div></div></div> 100%	Details

Students will also engage in at least one “Rich Task” per term, which involves higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills.

Currently, our Term 1 units are 3 weeks in length.

As a parent/carer, this term you will receive feedback in the form of:

- Test result for each unit (based on “Explicit Exposure” only)
- Number of Modules completed per unit (“Differentiated Mastery” only)
- A detailed Student Report (Week 7)

We understand that this can look different to a traditional classroom at times! We want to cater for each individual young person and believe our program allows us to do that.

If you have any questions about our Years 7 and 8 Maths Program, please don't hesitate to be in contact me via email at louise.keating@iona.vic.edu.au

Digital Only Maths Text

Families ordering Maths Texts in Years 9 and 10 now have a choice of selecting "Digital only" via the Campion link. Sorry for the families this has affected. For any issues please feel free to email louise.keating@iona.vic.edu.au

Ms Lou Keating
Teacher / Learning Area Leader (Maths & Numeracy)

Chess Club

We have been fielding some questions from parents/carers and students about our infamous Chess Club and are delighted to state that Chess Club will be returning to Iona College in Term 2!

The Chess Club holds sessions across Terms 2 and 3 during lunchtimes and culminates in our House Chess Competition at the beginning of Term 4.

We will hold a meeting later this term for all interested members so watch this space!

Mr Tom Chalkley and Ms Lou Keating

The Duke of Edinburgh Award @Iona

We are very proud that we can offer the opportunity for students to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh Award here at Iona College. This award is all about 'student' independence and encouraging them to work in different areas for their own personal growth. Here's what you need to know:

Introducing the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a unique and exciting opportunity for your young person to get out of their comfort zone and develop their initiative, self-esteem and a sense of adventure. The Duke of Ed Award is the world's leading youth achievement program for young people between the ages of 14 and 25. Through participation in the Award, young people are empowered with the skills and opportunities to realise their full potential and go beyond academic success.

The Duke of Ed Award can be achieved at three different levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. There are four award sections, each with a set length of time depending on the award level. Participants choose activities and set goals within each of the four award sections.

- **Physical Recreation** (a sport or exercise)
- **Service** (unpaid voluntary work)
- **Skill** (non-physical ability)
- **Adventurous Journeys** (a practice journey and a qualifying journey)

At the Bronze level, the time commitments for the Physical Rec, Service and Skill award sections are one hour a week for 3 months, with one section being the major section and extended to 6 months.

The Duke of Ed Award is a way to recognise and reward students for the activities that they already do. The activities for the award sections do not have to be new for the participant, however, they must be undertaken **outside of class time**.

Parents/carers play a vital role by providing support and encouragement as your young person works towards their goals. **The activities are completed outside of class time**, so some parental guidance may be required to help your young person achieve the award.

Who can enrol?

Students must be 14 years old at the time of signing up for the award or any Year 9 student and above can enrol.

Cost of the Award?

The cost for each participant starting their Duke of Ed Award at \$189, which includes administrative costs and registration, Online Record Book access, insurance cover and an award-level badge and certificate upon completion.

Can subjects at school be used?

Unfortunately, nothing that your young person does in the academic timetable can be included in this award. For example, if your young person is in Outdoor Education the camps for this subject cannot be used for the Journey in this award.

Support at Iona

At Iona, we will offer your young person a staff mentor - but only in an advisory capacity. Mentors will not chase students to complete any tasks for this award/fulfilling the requirements but will happily help and guide them if they ask for help. This is what makes this award so special for students to complete – it is totally driven by them.

More information, including how to register, can be found in the following documents:

[Duke of Ed Info Pack](#)

[Duke of Ed Education Pathways](#)

[Duke of Ed Registration Guide](#)

[Duke of Ed Employment Pathways](#)

If you have any questions please contact Jodie Townsend at jodie.townsend@iona.vic.edu.au

Ms Jodie Townsend
Teacher / Head of Performing Arts

2024 Swimming Carnival Information



A reminder that our annual College Swimming Carnival will take place at the Kardinia Aquatic Centre on Wednesday, February 28th.

A few important things to note:

- Attendance is compulsory for all students in Years 7–9.
- Year 10 and 11 students have the option to participate in the carnival. However, those who choose to attend the carnival must commit and compete in at least two official races on the day, which can include diving or 50m events. Students who decide not to participate in the carnival will be required to attend their regular timetabled classes at the College.
- We ask that students come dressed in their house colour or Iona Sport uniform.
- We kindly ask families who normally drop off their students at school to do so before 8:50 am. This will enable all students to take a bus from the College to the pool. Any student who arrives at Iona independently and not via the bus system will be able to board a bus at any stage of the morning with the last buses to depart Iona being our last wave of buses that arrive on the campus to drop students to school. We encourage early arrivals to board the early arriving school buses to prevent significant wait times for buses at 9 am.
- Students will be dismissed from Iona College at the end of the day, except for those leaving the pool at the conclusion of the carnival. It's important to emphasize that students attending the carnival must remain at the pool for the duration of the event. If a student wishes to leave from the pool, they will need to approach a Year Level Coordinator at the exit, present their signed note, and sign out accordingly.

We eagerly anticipate a day filled with swimming, fun and camaraderie!

Mr Craig Durran
Head of Positive Behaviour

Art Department News

Our Art department has had a productive start to the Term enjoying a variety of new and interesting themes.

Year 7 Artwork

Our Year 7's have been working on their cover pages for their visual art journal which included drawing a self-portrait:



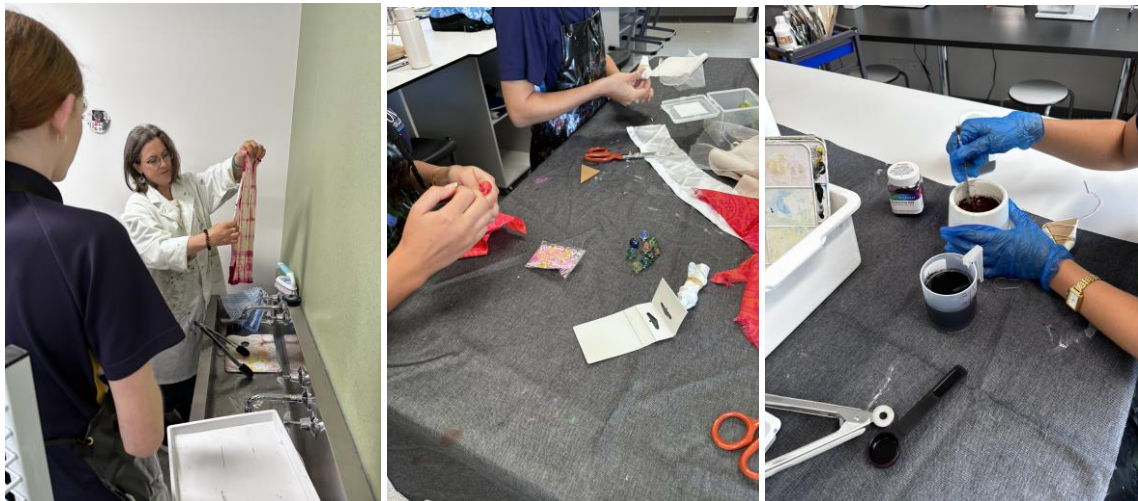
Year 10 Artwork

Our Year 10's have been researching the artwork from the Renaissance and investigating popular artists during this period:



Year 11 Artwork

Our Year 11 Product and Design Technology Fibre class have been exploring dyeing techniques, fabric painting, marbling and tie-dye:



Iona Canteen Update

Starting Monday, February 26th, the Iona canteen will only offer cold items (such as fresh sandwiches, rolls, wraps, and salads), as well as special dietary orders, through our Canteen Online portal. All other items (including hot food, drinks, cookies, cakes, muffins, etc.) will remain available for ordering over the counter only. We hope that this adjustment will reduce the student's wait times and we will be monitoring the effectiveness of the changes.

Iona Meet the Team



When you enter Iona's Main Reception you will be welcomed by the friendly, warm and caring face of Amanda Ford.

From the age of thirteen, Amanda wanted to work in Early Childhood. She pursued this dream and gained over 20 years of experience in the Child Care industry, she thrived on love and nurture, moulding children for the future and cherished the privilege of being entrusted with children's education and wellbeing. As she progressed through the ranks of the Child Care sector, Amanda witnessed her personal and professional growth, ultimately leading her to explore new horizons in education. After achieving her goals, she felt a new calling in education. Now, she's worked in Primary and Secondary levels, driven by her passion for helping and inspiring young minds.

As a parent of a Foundation student at Iona, Amanda fell in love with the vision and values Damian shared for Iona College. She wanted to be part of the journey and so she joined the Iona team this year.

When asked what the most rewarding aspect of being part of Iona's she answered:

"There is a beautiful heart and soul at this College. It doesn't matter what role you have, as you are seen as an equal. Everyone is willing to help each other to succeed in a common goal- which is our students. To help them grow, learn and strive to achieve their personal and educational goals to help set them up for the future. It gives me such a buzz to be part of this. be part of this team, but also knowing my children are too." What a beautiful sentiment!

A Cats fan and member, Amanda loves listening to anything from the '80s and enjoys watching series like Outlander. In her spare time, she enjoys beach walks, football and family time.

Her words of wisdom for students? "Believe you can, therefore you will."

Amanda, we are thrilled to have you as part of the Iona Support team!

School Photos

Your young person should have brought home an Arthur Reed flyer with their unique image student code. If you didn't receive the flyer, please call Reception and they will be able to provide you with your individual student code. You can then register online to view the images when they become available in the webshop.

Registration is an easy process, just follow the 3 simple steps on your young person's personalised flyer once you receive it and don't forget to add the codes for all your young people attending this school. It's important to register even if you had done it last year, using your young person's 2024 image code to link their images for the current year with your contact details. Once the images are ready to view and in the webshop, all parents/carers who have registered will be notified by SMS and email. So, please wait for the notification that 2024 images are online to view before making your purchase.

Dates to Remember in Term 1 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
Thursday 14 March	Summer Soiree
Wednesday 20 March	Student Progress Meetings
Friday 22 March	Student Free Day - Professional Development
Monday 25 March	Lunchtime Concert
Tuesday 26 March	Eltham High School Concert Band Visit
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