

**23 May 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reconciliation Week is next week, taking place from the 27<sup>th</sup> of May until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. Across the College, students and staff will participate in learning and connection activities that will recognise, celebrate and bring us closer to First Nations Culture and Community.

Our First Nations students have been busily preparing for their future ceremonies by making the first of a number of Possum Skin Stoles, which are culturally significant to First Peoples. With the help of Lisa Couzens, our First Nations Liaison Officer, the students have designed an image which incorporates our Celtic Catholic and First Nations stories. They burnt the image onto the Stole and have begun adding their handprints in ochre. This first Stole will be worn at the FIRE Carrier Commissioning on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 10am. This event will be livestreamed to families, and we encourage tuning in to witness the commitment of our FIRE Carriers and our College to Reconciliation, and the milestone moment when one of our students proudly shares their Culture by wearing the Stole.



As we come to the conclusion of this week, we pay our respects to a friend of the College and local leader, Uncle Norm Stanley, who passed away last week. We ask our families to pray for Nikki, his children, his extended family and the community who mourn him.

In light of Reconciliation Week and our path forward, we pray...

Lord, the National Reconciliation Week theme, **Now More Than Ever**, is a reminder that no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of First Nations people will —and must —continue. There have been moments in Australia's reconciliation journey that make us want to turn away. But when things are divisive, the worst thing we can do is disengage or disconnect. We pray that now more than ever, we can come together to tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation knowing that 6.2 million Australians voted YES showing their desire for better outcomes for First Nations people.

God of Justice, we pray that Reconciliation can live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation that is strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

God of compassion, we pray that Reconciliation supporters can stand up to defend and uphold the rights of First Nations peoples. We pray for courage to call out racism wherever it is encountered, and to actively reinforce the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across our continent.

God of Love, we all have a role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures. We pray for truth-telling so that we might understand history and First Peoples better. Strengthen our connection and bring us hope for our shared future.

Amen



## Year 7 Camp Reflections

Our Year 7 camp was at Phillip Island, 3 hours away from our school. Before we hopped onto the bus we needed to make sure we had everything in our day bags, (lunch, snack, jumper, water bottle, activities for the trip and extra layers of warm clothing) and put all the bags in the bus. When we hopped onto the bus we did a roll call to make sure everyone was there, and we started to drive there. Midway through the bus ride we stopped at a servo to have our lunch and a toilet break. Sadly, we weren't allowed to buy anything at the servo. After about 15 minutes we hopped back on the bus and continued our trip.

When we arrived, we all grabbed our bags and put them under a shelter. Once all the bags were out of the bus, we went to this big meeting hall and found out all the activities and rules at Phillip

Island Adventure Camp. After that, we all collected our bags and found out our cabins. We had cabins 1 – 30. Once we were settled and our bags/luggage were in our rooms we got to the activities.

*Abigail Hunt*

Phillip Island Adventure Camp was amazing. Although the drive could have been shorter the 3-hour wait was worth it when finally, we arrived. The day activities were excellent, but the highlight of the camp happened later in the evening. On the first night we visited Amaze'N'Things, where we all navigated a mirror maze, a normal maze, played mini golf and generally had the time of our lives. This was incredible but on the second night (in my personal opinion) we had even more fun. The penguins were - as I'm sure anyone who's seen them will tell you - the cutest, most adorable, perfect, tiniest creatures in the world. Everyone, even with the extreme cold, loved this experience. These activities and camp overall were a really fun experience to be remembered.

*Maddie Jeffery*

I loved going to Phillip Island for camp! I enjoyed spending time with all my friends at a place that was not school and doing fun activities.... speaking of fun activities, we did heaps of them! (10 to be exact)! My favourite activities were the giant swing, the crate climb and bushman's breakfast, I know what you are asking, "What are those?" Well... The giant swing was where you and your group would pull up a person that had a harness on, you would pull them up with a rope and when we stopped pulling the guide would say "3..2..1.. FLY" and the person that was harnessed up would pull a tiny rope releasing themselves to swing, that's why it's called a giant swing. The crate climb is what it's named, you get harnessed and stack up a bunch of milk crates and climb them! Finally, the bushman's breakfast was, you entered the forest and collected fire materials to make a tiny fire to made tiny pancakes! I know so cute! I got so dusty doing it because I was in charge of the fire. These was my favourite things at camp!

*Elodie Dickinson*





## Consent Labs

We are looking forward to working with Consent Labs and our young people next week. Education in human sexuality is primarily the responsibility of the parents, however, this responsibility is best shared to ensure a targeted and age-appropriate consistent message is given to our students. Schools, the Church and the wider community all play a significant role in assisting parents to fulfil their educational responsibilities.

In working with our parents, we have found that parents welcome support in this important area of their young person's development.

Our young people need respectful relationships and sexuality education so that they have the necessary information to make responsible informed decisions. Through the workshops we have planned, our young people will explore the Catholic vocation to love responsibly and live life wholeheartedly.

Consent Labs is a Sydney based quality assured program that specialise in these important discussions. Each year level will participate in a 90-minute workshop that looks at important topics like consent foundations, practicing consent language, boundary setting, developing healthy respectful relationships, consent with alcohol and other drugs, consent in a world of technology, positive masculinity and importantly recognising and responding to sexual harassment and assault.

We recognise that different families have different experiences and knowledge in this space and as a result all parents have been sent a form with the option for parents to opt out of their young person participating. Your young person would then be supervised and receive alternative activities during this time.

**The workshops this week will cover the following:**

<b>Year 7 &amp; Year 8</b>	
Consent Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does everyday consent look like?</li> <li>• How can we use skills that we've already been taught and apply them when exploring respectful relationships?</li> <li>• Boundary settings in everyday scenarios, such as platonic relationships, as well as in romantic or sexual relationships.</li> <li>• Practising consent language.</li> </ul>
<b>Year 9</b>	
Consent in the world of Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Platforms such as Instagram, Snapchat and Tik Tok are now cemented into our lives. How can young people navigate these spaces safely and know what your rights are?</li> <li>• What are the risks associated with sexting? What is image-based abuse? Where can a student report this if this occurs?</li> <li>• How does pornography affect our understanding of consent?</li> </ul>
Consent with Alcohol & Other Drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people exploring new experiences throughout high school at gatherings and parties. How can they do this safely?</li> <li>• Can young people give consent when they're intoxicated?</li> <li>• What protective behaviours can young people implement to help keep themselves and their friends safe in the setting of alcohol and other drug use?</li> </ul>
<b>Year 10</b>	
Healthy Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower students to recognise traits of both healthy and unhealthy relationships.</li> <li>• Exploration of consent-challenging tactics including gaslighting, love-bombing and coercion.</li> <li>• Connecting students with support services.</li> </ul>
<b>Year 11</b>	
Healthy Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower students to recognise traits of both healthy and unhealthy relationships.</li> <li>• Exploration of consent-challenging tactics including gaslighting, love-bombing and coercion.</li> <li>• Connecting students with support services.</li> </ul>
Recognising Sexual Harassment & Sexual Assault	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can young people develop the confidence, and understanding of the legislation, to be able to identify when sexual harassment or assault has occurred?</li> <li>• How can young people be an active bystander, call out sexual harassment and contribute to societal change?</li> <li>• Connecting students with practical support options.</li> </ul>

For further information please contact Kylie Power – Deputy Principal (Wellbeing) or follow Consent Labs on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

[www.consentlabs.org.au](http://www.consentlabs.org.au)



## Music

### 7G String Trials

In Year 7, our students explore the instruments of the orchestra. We are fortunate to offer them hands-on experiences with various instruments from each family. In our most recent lesson, 7G had the chance to try out several string instruments. It was very pleasing to see that most of them were able to produce a good sound and quickly grasped the basics of playing these beautiful instruments.



If any students are interested in learning an orchestral instrument, we have some spare stock available that we could lend to support them on that journey. Please email [music@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:music@iona.vic.edu.au) or further information.

Jodie Townsend  
Head of Performing Arts

## Basketball

On Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, the Iona Boys and Girls Junior Basketball teams competed in the Basketball Victoria Junior Basketball Championships held in Werribee at Eagle stadium. Both teams played exceptional team basketball throughout the group stage, both reaching the finals.

The boys came up against an extremely tall, skilled St Patrick's outfit in the semi-finals. The Iona boys played extremely well, going goal for goal throughout the entire game, unfortunately just coming up short, going down 27-30.

The girls team were fantastic all day. Mr. Frawley, Ava and Indi had the girls locked in on defense, with other teams finding it extremely difficult to score against them. On offense, the girls moved the ball really well and shared the scoring load all day. The girls only lost 1 game for the entire day and that was in the group stage. The girls won the grand final 18- 14 against Western Heights College.

Thanks to our fantastic student coaches Ava De Been, Indi Smith and Phillip Wickham for sharing their skills and knowledge with the Year 7 and 8 students and thanks to staff member Sarah Riverland for assisting on the day. Congratulations to the Junior Girls team and well done to both teams on the way you represented our school!



## False Fire Alarm

This week we experienced an incident where a student intentionally triggered a fire alarm without cause. These false alarms disrupt the learning environment, waste valuable time and resources, and most importantly, pose serious risks to our students and staff. Emergency Services are automatically notified when our fire alarm is activated, and a fee (usually around \$5,000) is charged for their attendance if it is deemed to be a false alarm. If a student/s is found to have raised the alarm without cause and the College is invoiced, these costs will be passed on to the student's family.

We ask for your support in addressing this issue. Please have a conversation with your young person about the importance of fire safety and the seriousness of falsely activating fire alarms.

Emphasise the potential dangers and encourage them to speak up if they witness or become aware of someone planning to trigger an alarm as a prank.

### Term 2 Dates to Remember

Date	Event
Monday 15 April	Staff Professional Learning Student Free Day
Tuesday 16 April	Term 2 Commences for Students
Wednesday 17 April	Year 7 - 11 Cross Country
Thursday 18 April	ANZAC Day Commemoration Service - Formal Uniform
Thursday 25 April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Monday 29 April	Year 12 2025 Information Night - 6 pm Resource Centre
Thursday 2 May	Year 7 & 8 Digital Tattoo Information Parent Session
Monday 6 May	Year 11 2025 Information Night - 6 pm Resource Centre
Thursday 9 May	Music Soiree
Monday 13 May - Wednesday 15 May	Year 7 Camp 1 - Phillip Island
Wednesday 15 May - Friday 17 May	Year 7 Camp 2 - Phillip Island
Monday 20 May	Year 12 2025 Selections Due in
Friday 24 May	Year 11 2025 Selections Due in
Monday 27 May	Year 10 2025 Information Night - 6 pm Online
Monday 27 May - Wednesday 29 May	Year 8 Camp 1 - Lake Dewar
Wednesday 29 May - Friday 31 May	Year 8 Camp 2 - Lake Dewar
Monday 10 June	King's Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday 11 June	Year 10 2025 Selections Due in
Wednesday 12 June	Year 9 2025 Information Night - 6 pm Online
Friday 14 June	VCE Unit 1 Ends
Saturday 15 June - Sunday 23 June	Year 10 Central Australia Experience
Monday 17 June	VCE Unit 2 Commences
Tuesday 18 June	General Achievement Test (GAT) VCE Unit 3 and 4 Students
Tuesday 18 June	Year 7 Immunisations
Friday 21 June - Wednesday 3 July	Year 10 Indonesian Language Study Tour
Friday 28 June	Year 9 2025 Selections Due in
Friday 28 June	Term 2 Concludes - 2:05 pm
Monday 15 July	Staff Professional Learning Student Free Day
Tuesday 16 July	Term 3 Commences for Students

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa