

13 June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We had a wonderful day last Friday when we observed the Feast of St Columba with a bush dance. Despite some initial hesitation about student enthusiasm, our worries quickly dissipated when year level after year level, enthusiastically threw themselves into the high-spirited opportunity. The activity was inclusive and enabled students and staff to laugh and be a bit silly. The dancing was a wonderful demonstration of courage, it deepened relationships within our community and it was so much fun! We are proud of our students for their willingness to try something new, and also proud of our staff who continue to lead by positive example. We thank Mick and Phil from the Billy Tea Bush Band for leading our day of fun and celebration.



Refugee Week

Next week is Refugee Week, a time to turn our attention to the needs of those who flee their homeland for the safety of another. The Geelong region is home to many asylum seekers and refugees who have arrived after fleeing persecution in other parts of the world, and who are awaiting their determinations for refugee status, or have received temporary visas. Many people are separated from loved ones who are often still living in dangerous situations. Without permanent residency, opportunities for employment, education and training are severely limited.

In order to support this vulnerable community within our region, The Welcome Place was established as a 'drop-in center' providing activities such as arts and crafts, listening to music, board games, computer access, pool, table tennis, gardening and excursions. It is a comfortable space for a cup of tea or coffee and a friendly conversation. An evening meal is offered each Friday, and a sense of community is fostered as refugees and people seeking asylum participate in meal preparation and sharing food. The Welcome Place is a microcosm of the 'way the world should be' with people of various groups, nationalities and religions sharing food, culture, conversation, activities and laughter. As members of a Catholic community, we are encouraged to love our neighbours and this is a lived action at The Welcome Place.

A food bank at The Welcome Place offers a gift of care and practicality and we are pleased to offer our support by calling for the donation of groceries from our Year 7 and 8 students. We ask families of Year 7 and 8 students to add an item from this [grocery list](#) to their grocery trolley, then have your young person take the item to Community Group. The goods will be taken to The Welcome Place and added to their food bank.

The drive will begin next Monday 17th and will conclude on the final day of this term. Please support this Refugee Week initiative.

Caritas Australia's Papua New Guinea Landslide Disaster

Remote communities in Papua New Guinea have been devastated by a catastrophic landslide that struck at 3 am on 24th May. The timing of the landslide meant most people were sleeping at the time of the disaster, with little time to escape. Thousands are feared dead. Although the initial estimate from the United Nations was that at least 670 people may have lost their lives, this number could climb dramatically from recent reports. The total population of the entire affected ward is nearly 4,000 people, but this number could be higher due to an increased number of displaced people who have been living in the area in recent times. The ongoing search and rescue operations are facing challenges due to the hazardous terrain and the continuous threat of landslides. As rescue efforts continue, those who have lost their homes urgently need our support now, and in the weeks and months ahead.

If you are able, we ask you to consider making a financial contribution to support the giving of aid in the region. You can donate online at www.caritas.org.au/png or phone 1800 024 413.



**PAPUA NEW GUINEA
LANDSLIDE APPEAL**

Thousands of people are affected. Your urgent support is needed now.

DONATE
www.caritas.org.au/png
1800 024 413



In light of these catastrophic events, we pray this prayer written by Michael McGirr:

Loving God, we carry in our hearts all who suffer. At this time, we especially plead on behalf of the people of Papua New Guinea who are suffering grief and loss in the wake of landslides. We hold out to you all who have died, their families and communities, and all who have been left homeless. We ask that the Australian community will respond to the crisis of our close neighbours and friends. At the time of the feast of Corpus Christi, we remember that Jesus puts his body and blood on the line for us. May we too respond body and soul to the needs of God's family throughout the world. May we be living bread for all.

Amen.

The Key to Raising Emotionally Intelligent Kids!

Every few weeks I hope to share some parent wellbeing tips and tricks. Today's article '[A 25-Year Study Just Revealed the Secret to Raising Emotionally Intelligent Kids](#)', focuses on raising emotionally intelligent kids and features one of our former parents Lael Stone's TED X talk on the topic.

A worthwhile read and watch.

Ms Kylie Power
Deputy Principal Wellbeing

2024 Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund – Applications Closing SOON!

Time is quickly running out for families **who hold a valid means-tested concession card (Pensioner concession card, health care card or Veterans Affairs Gold card) or who are temporary foster parents of school-aged children to apply for the CSEF Allowance.**

If your circumstances have changed since the start of this year and you now find yourself with one of these cards, or, you have had a card for a while but have not yet submitted an application with us for 2024, then please click on this link [School Fees | Iona College Geelong](#) and then download the form at the bottom of the School Fees page, complete and email it (together with a copy of the front and back of your Concession Card) to fees@iona.vic.edu.au.

The annual CSEF amount for secondary school students is \$250. If your application is successful, the payment will be made directly to the school and will be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the student - a credit of \$250 will be put against your school fee account PLUS an additional \$250 will also be provided to you (and credited to your fee account) by Iona College.

Families can list more than one student in one application if they are attending the same school.

Please ensure that completed applications are submitted to the College **by no later than 5 pm on Friday, 21 June 2024.**

Mr Carl Jones
Accounts Receivable & Transport Coordinator

Year 7 Immunisation – Tuesday 18th June.

A reminder on Tuesday 18th June 2024, Barwon Health immunisation service, will visit our Year 7 students to administer the following 2 vaccines (two separate injections) for free:

- HPV(Human Papillomavirus) vaccine and
- Boostrix(Diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough booster)2 injections

Please see the [following information](#), which explains why these vaccines are given to our Year 7 students.

If you require more information, please contact Barwon Health immunisation directly on 4215 4444.

Mrs Kate Every
College Nurse

Social Innovators Program

Young people from Iona College and Oberon College in Geelong stepped up to impart real change in their communities. They shone brightly as innovators in the Crazy Ideas College Social Innovator program on the 16th and 17th of May. With unique ideas and insights, these students embraced the challenge of solving real work problems around four themes: Caring for the Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Reimagining Learning and Community Connectedness. Day 1 saw the students thinking big to create bold, inspired ideas. They brought tremendous energy to building impressive prototypes to showcase their ideas and work through the details of their concept.



Ideas ranged from a new tech game called Forrest Fighters to help educate young people about environmental choices, an Our Little Helper robot to keep the streets clean from rubbish and The Affirmation Alarm to help kick start your day with a personalised positive affirmation.

On Day 2, participants designed more achievable social experiments around the same theme with great success. Just hours later, they pitched their ideas to Victoria Rutter and Ben Canterbury from ID_Land, Tatiana Kessler from Headspace Geelong, Brad Papworth from Ivy Street, Colin Giddens from ALS Hydrographics and Emma Holmes from Barwon Water. These community partners were absolutely blown away by the ideas, the details and the impact these initiatives could have. The young people received many offers of assistance and support to bring these ideas to life.

Mr Sam Wood
Teacher / Head of Student Voice and Agency

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
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
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
Monday 24 June	Consent Lab Parent & Carers Online Workshop
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



Staffing Announcement

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Mr Ash Mills has been appointed to the position of Deputy Principal (Wellbeing) at St Joseph's College Geelong effective from the start of the 2025 school year. We congratulate Ash on this wonderful achievement which is well deserved.

Ash joined the Iona Community in 2022 as part of the College leadership team initially overseeing wellbeing and more recently working at connecting wellbeing for learning at the College. Whilst we will be sad to lose Ash at the end of the year, we recognise that this opportunity is a natural progression for Ash and his career, and we are delighted that his skills and expertise are being recognised with this new appointment.

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa