

**21 November 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday was Universal Children's Day which recognises the rights of children across the world and celebrates anniversaries of the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Children and young people are central to the life of Iona College and our mission as Catholic educators. Our staff enjoy the energy and curiosity they bring to the school environment and, as a Child Safe organisation, we ensure their safety and wellbeing so that they may flourish and be the best they can be. Pope Francis praises children and recognises their great potential as future leaders who are motivated by goodness. He advocates for children to have a balanced childhood, inclusive of some time to pray. For children, he promotes a simple 5-finger method of prayer, which brings them into connection with others, the world and themselves.

He says:

Use the five fingers on your hand to go through the following prayer. You can do this as a team or individually with your own intentions.

1. The thumb is the closest finger to you. So, start praying for those who are closest to you. They are the persons easiest to remember. To pray for our dear ones is a "sweet obligation."
2. The next finger is the index. Pray for those who teach you, instruct you and heal you. They need support and wisdom to show direction to others. Always keep them in your prayers.
3. The following finger is the tallest. It reminds us of our leaders, the governors and those who have authority. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is the ring finger. Even though it may surprise you, it is our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for the weakest, the sick or those plagued by problems. They need your prayers.
5. And finally, we have our smallest finger, the smallest of all. Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. When you are done praying for the other four groups, you will be able to see your own needs but in the proper perspective, and also you will be able to pray for your own needs in a better way.

## Christmas Giving

Families have many ways to give to organisations that support the needy at Christmas - your family might choose to donate to a Christmas wishing tree in a retail store, your family may drop coins into a tin rattled for a charity, you might deliver meals or grocery items to someone in need - there are lots of ways to extend care outside of our immediate families. At Iona, we make Christmas giving easy by inviting each family to donate one gift card, of any value, from any retailer, and we will ensure that they are given to MacKillop Family Services and Vinnies.

The gift cards for MacKillop will bring a smile to the face of a young person living in Out of Home Care as they will be given the opportunity to shop for a Christmas gift for themselves, whereas the cards for Vinnies will be distributed to families to be used for groceries or gifts.

Students can bring in their gift cards up until the final day of school and drop it into the box at the Main Reception. If families have a particular preference to give to MacKillop Family Services or Vinnies, please put the card into an envelope that is marked with the preferred agency. In anticipation of a very successful Appeal, we thank you for your generosity.



The poster features a red background with a decorative border of gingerbread cookies and greenery. At the top center is the Iona College Geelong logo. The main text reads "Iona's 2024 CHRISTMAS APPEAL". Below this, a white box contains the text "DONATE A GIFT CARD TO SUPPORT MACKILLOP FAMILY SERVICES & VINNIES". A calendar icon is followed by the text "TO MAIN RECEPTION BY THURS 5TH DEC". At the bottom, it says "THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!" and features a gingerbread house and more cookies.

**Iona's 2024**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**APPEAL**

**DONATE A GIFT CARD TO SUPPORT  
MACKILLOP FAMILY SERVICES & VINNIES**

 **TO MAIN RECEPTION BY THURS 5TH DEC**

**THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

## Buildings Update

We are excited to report that we have formally taken possession of our new buildings and spaces including the fourteen new classrooms, additional gymnasium court, food technology kitchen along with a new canteen area. We very much appreciate the work of Plan Group our builders who have delivered these projects ahead of schedule.

We will commence the development of some new play spaces around our new buildings in the New Year.

After a meeting of the College Advisory Council last week and consultation with the student and staff body, we are pleased to announce that we will commence the process of formally naming some of our new spaces.

The new classroom block of fourteen classrooms that will primarily accommodate our Year 7 students next year will now be officially known as **“The Glowrey Centre of Excellence”**.



The current Administration Building/Resource Centre (to be refurbished in coming years as our music and performing arts spaces) will be known as “**The Francis Centre of Courage**”.

Plans are in place to attach an appropriate and approved First Nations name for the new Library, Student Services and Administration (our next project).

“**The MacKillop Centre of Leadership**” and “**The Chisholm Centre of Compassion**” will be attached to buildings as we develop further.

We are pleased to be able to acknowledge our College House Patrons in this way.

### Passion Project Expo Reminder - All Year 7s and 8s

The Passion Project Expo for all Year 7 and 8 students is fast approaching! Here are a few important reminders:

**Where:** The Glowrey Centre of Excellence (our new building). If parents are planning to visit, please park in the top gravel car park and sign in at reception at 1:45 pm.

**When:** Wednesday, 27th November during Periods 5 and 6.

- **Set-Up for students:** 1:30–1:45 pm (at the start of Period 5).
- **Viewing Sessions:**
  - Session 1: 1:45–2:15 pm
  - Session 2: 2:15–2:45 pm
- **Clean-Up for students:** Immediately after the second session.

**What Your Young Person Should Bring:** Any props for their presentation, such as posters, artefacts, or other items to showcase their display.

The top two projects from each class will be showcased at the Awards Evening the following day:  
**Thursday, 28th November at 5:30 pm.**

Students should aim to finalise their projects this weekend, ready for next week’s L2L or P2S class.  
Thank you,

Kylie Power and Rebecca Barry  
*Passion Project Key Contacts*

### 2025 Booklists

The 2025 booklists will be finalised tomorrow, Friday 22 November. Once available, they will be distributed via email to parents and carers. Orders can then be placed directly through Champion Books using the supplied code.



## Uniform Item Donations

As we approach the end of the year, we invite you to lend a helping hand to families in our school community. If your young person has outgrown any school uniform items, or if you have pieces that are no longer needed, we warmly encourage you to consider donating them to Iona College.

Our goal is to build a range of uniform items that can be shared with families in need. By doing so, we can ensure that every student has access to the essential clothing they require to feel comfortable and confident while attending school.

Here's how you can make a difference:

**Uniform Donations:** We are grateful for any contributions of uniform items that are clean, in good condition, and adhere to the school's uniform guidelines. Whether it's shirts, pants, skirts, or blazers, every piece counts.

**Drop-off Details:** To donate, please bring your items to the Main Reception area. Our staff will be more than happy to assist you.

Thank you sincerely for your generosity and support of our school community. Your thoughtful contributions truly make a significant impact.

## Iona Pathways Press

Last week was our final Pathways Press for 2024 as we now focus on preparing for an exciting and groundbreaking 2025. Thank you to all who have read and engaged with us through the publication, we hope you have found it a useful resource and we look forward to working with you all again next year.

To contact the Pathways team please email [pathways@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:pathways@iona.vic.edu.au)

*The Pathways Team*

## Term 4 Dates to Remember

Date	Event
Monday 7 October	Staff Professional Learning Student Free Day
Tuesday 8 October	Term 4 Commences for Students
Tuesday 8 October	Whole College Assembly - Formal Uniform Not Required
Tuesday 15 October	Year 7 2025 Online Parent Information Night
Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November	Year 7 - 10 PAT Testing
Monday 4 November	Mid Term Break
Tuesday 5 November	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Tuesday 19 November - Monday 25 November	Year 11 Exams
Tuesday 26 November	Student Free Day
Thursday 21 November	Ensemble Showcase
Thursday 21 November	VCE Arts, Design and Technology "Inspired" Exhibition
Wednesday 27 November	Year 11 Ignite Parent Evening
Wednesday 27 November	Year 7 & 8 Passion Project Expo (Columba Centre)
Thursday 28 November - Wednesday 4 December	VCE/VCE VM Ignite Program
Thursday 28 November	Awards Celebration Evening (Stadium)
Thursday 5 December	Last Day of Term 4 (3:05 pm)
Thursday 30 January	Year 7, Year 12 and New Iona Students (Year 8 - 11) First Day of 2025
Friday 31 January	Year 8,9,10 & 11 First Day 2025

If you would like to download a printable version of the schedule above, [please access it here](#). This link will be updated each week in the newsletter as new events are added to the calendar.

Please note that Tuesday 26th November is a Student Free Day - the College Office will be closed on this day.

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa