

28 November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The season of Advent begins this weekend, and this marks the beginning of the Church's new year. Advent is a season of waiting and preparation. In fact, the season of Advent focuses on Christ's coming in the past, present and future. We await and prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas. We hope and give thanks for Christ's presence in ourselves, others, in the Word and sacraments. We look to the future, waiting for the coming of Christ. Part of the Catholic tradition is to bless an Advent wreath and light a candle at the start of each week, and this helps us to reflect on our lives and ask for forgiveness as we count down to Christmas. There are four candles, three purple representing hope, peace and love, and one pink representing the joy we feel as we anticipate the coming of Jesus at Christmas. On this first Sunday of Advent, the candle of hope will be lit, so we pray...

God of Hope
Light in us the flame of hope,
awakening the infinite possibilities you have placed before us.
Make us sources of hope in our homes, in our school and in our world.
Amen.

Next Thursday, the school year will conclude with Mass at 9.20 am in our newly extended Stadium. Families and friends of the College are invited to participate via the livestream link which will be emailed on that morning. Fr Joel Peart, the new Parish Priest of Nazareth Parish, will celebrate the mass. Students are required to wear formal uniform for this significant College occasion.

Celebration of Achievement Evening

Congratulations to all the students who will receive awards at tonight's Celebration of Achievement Evening. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments throughout the year and look forward to celebrating these achievements in a fitting way this evening.

Christmas Appeal

We are quickly coming to the end of the school year when our days get busy with preparing for Christmas. To-do lists at this time of the year can seem extraordinarily long! Our students and staff are working through their lists, ensuring that all is complete and tidied up before leaving for the Christmas break. In recent weeks, students may have come home asking you to add the buying of a gift card to your to-do list and we celebrate them for doing this.

Our young people actively seek ways to make a difference to the world and know that the donation of one gift card to our Christmas Appeal can make a really big difference to a young person who has been placed in Out of Home Care. Our students are also aware that for some families food and gifts are scarce despite the usual portrayal of the Christmas season being a time of abundant food and every wish come true. For some families, possibly even Iona ones, Christmas is not easy.

If you haven't yet done so, please consider donating a gift card to our Christmas Appeal which concludes at the end of next week. Students can place their gift cards into the box at the Main Reception and, while they are there, see our Christmas tree and Nativity scene.

MacKillop Family Services and Vinnies are grateful for the generous efforts of the Iona community and will ensure that gift cards are distributed to people who could really do with our care this Christmas.




IONA
COLLEGE
GEE LONG

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!

Passion Project Expo

Our Year 7 and 8 students amazed the community yesterday with their remarkable passion projects! The showcase featured an impressive variety of creations, including stunning artworks, intricate welding pieces, scaled-down architectural models, handmade quilts, go-carts, e-bikes and more.

Each project reflected hours of hard work and dedication, and we were thrilled to see such creativity and innovation on display. Congratulations to all students on your outstanding achievements—you've made us proud.





Living with Teens Program

The Regional Parenting Network is offering *Living with Teens*, a 3-week program designed to help parents build strong, secure connections with their teenagers.

Program topics include:

- Understanding what teens need from parents
- Equipping parents to meet teens' needs
- Adolescent development insights

When: Wednesdays, 19th February – 26th March, 7:00–9:00 PM

Where: Online via Zoom

Bookings are essential.
Call 5272 4741 to secure your spot.

Turning into Teens



Tuning into Teens

Emotionally
Intelligent Parenting

A six-session emotion
coaching parenting
program



Iona College will be running a series of Tuning into Teens programs for our parents throughout 2025. This is a highly sought after program which will be offered free of charge to Iona parents.

Spaces will be limited so please contact molly.morris@iona.vic.edu.au for more information and to express your interest.



Would you like to learn how to:

- Talk with your teen?
- Better understand your teen.
- Help your teen learn to manage their emotions?
- Help to prevent behaviour problems in your teen?
- Teach your teen to deal with conflict?



Tuning into Teens provides information on how to help your young person develop emotional intelligence. Research has shown that adolescents with greater emotional intelligence:

- are more aware, assertive and strong in situations of peer pressure
- have greater success with making friends and are more able to manage conflict with peers
- are more able to cope when upset or angry
- have fewer mental health and substance abuse difficulties
- have more stable and satisfying relationships as adults
- have greater career success – Emotional Intelligence may be a better predictor of academic and career success than IQ.



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.

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa