

28 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

National Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June) started yesterday, and we acknowledged the beginning of this significant time on our calendar with a special assembly led by our First Nations Liaison Officer Lisa Couzens, assistant Nick Haintz and our Fire Carrier staff and students. National Reconciliation Week invites us, as a Catholic school community, to reflect deeply on our shared history, to acknowledge truth, and to take meaningful steps toward healing and justice. This year's theme, *All In*, reminds us that reconciliation is an active commitment that calls each of us to listen, learn and stand alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in promoting dignity, respect and right relationships.



It was wonderful to see the commissioning of new Fire Carriers at the assembly, who made a pledge to stand up for justice and to make sure our First Nations students and families are always encouraged and respected in our school community. We were very pleased to welcome some of our First Nations parents and families to the assembly. Our Culture and Identity Leaders Mia Morris and Isaac Curavic, launched the new Iona College polo with beautiful indigenous artwork down the sides – these can be [ordered online](#) or in-store through the Uniform Group, Grovedale.



As we continue this week to take part in reconciliation activities of reflection, learning and community, we are reminded that our Catholic faith calls us to be people of hope and compassion, seeking unity through Christ's reconciling love. As we journey through this week, may we listen with open hearts, cherish the richness of our diversity, and work together for a more just and peaceful Australia.

A Prayer for Reconciliation from Wiradjuri woman Steph Evans

*Loving Father, Creator Spirit,
Thank you that you created all people.
That you knit us together in our mother's womb and placed a purpose on each person's
life.
Thank you that there were no mistakes in your creation.
Thank you that we have weeks like these where we can turn our focus to reconciliation.
These lands bleed and yearn for your reconciling Spirit, and we pray that this week acts
as a reminder of this to us all, a reminder that won't be forgotten in the weeks to come.
God help us to have ears that hear as we continue to listen deeply.
Help us to hope defiantly for a reconciled Australia.
Help us to love one another and cherish our differences.
May your love be the foundation of Australia's reconciliation.
Let your justice fall on our lands.
In your mighty mighty name,
Amen.*

The Child Safe Standards – a deep dive into CSS 3

The Child Safe Standards are a set of guidelines that help Iona create safe environments for children and young people. They make sure that children are protected from harm, listened to and respected. These standards require organisations to have strong leadership, clear policies and a culture that puts children first. As a parent or carer, you can expect Iona to involve families, empower children, train staff properly and respond to concerns quickly and respectfully.

Child Safe Standard 3 - This standard focuses on empowering children and young people by ensuring they are informed, respected and actively involved in decisions that affect them. This participation helps build a school culture that is safe for them and values their voice.

‘Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.’

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven and legal responsibility to uphold and actively promote the wellbeing and safety of every student entrusted in our care. Our commitment to the protection of students is enabled in nurturing, respectful and safe communities where the uniqueness and sacred dignity of every young person is celebrated, and they can flourish in their learning and development. These newsletter updates provide an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they are designed to help keep children and young people safe and what Iona, governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS), is doing to prioritise and achieve this.

Overview of Child Safe Standard 3:

- Children are informed about all their rights, including safety, information and participation
- The importance of friendship is recognized and support from peers is encouraged
- Where relevant to setting or context, young people are offered access to sexual abuse prevention programs in an age-appropriate way
- Staff are attuned to signs of harm and facilitate child-friendly ways for children to express their views, participate in decision making and raise their concerns
- Organisations have strategies to develop a culture that facilitates participation and are responsive to input from children and young people.

What does this look like at Iona?

- **Creating Opportunities for Student Voice:** We create formal structures such as our student leadership programs, but we also include other opportunities so all students, especially the most vulnerable, can have their voice heard.
- **Acting on Student Feedback:** We listen deeply to what students are telling us and we respond to concerns, suggestions and ideas. This includes making sure students are aware when we have acted on their feedback. Our weekly pulse check-ins and gratitude functions promote help seeking and allow us to hear from students each week.
- **Building Staff Capacity:** Our staff receive professional learning, so they understand the importance and benefits of listening to and responding to, student voice. This also includes training for staff regarding how to incorporate student voice, agency and empowerment in their daily interactions and decision-making. We are currently 12 months into our professional development journey with Power 2 Kids which is empowering our staff to be champions in child safety.

How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

- **Listen and talk often:** Encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings. Let them know it's always ok to speak up.
- **Talk about rights and safety:** Help your child understand that everyone deserves to feel safe and respected.
- **Be a role model:** Show kindness, respect, and inclusion in everyday life, children learn from what they see.
- **Stay connected with Iona:** Take part in parent evenings and surveys about student wellbeing and safety e.g. MACSSIS
- **Support student voice:** Encourage your child to get involved in school activities where their ideas can make a difference.
- **If you have any questions about child safety please reach out to Kylie Power Deputy Principal Wellbeing.**

Kylie Power
Deputy Principal Wellbeing

Photography and Recording Permission Policy Update

Please be advised that the Photography and Recording Permission Policy has recently been updated. You can view the latest version on the [Iona College Policy and Report page](#).

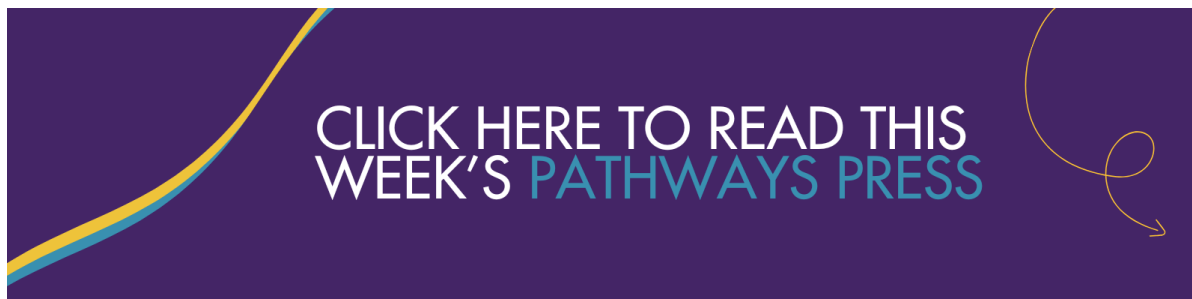
If you would like to review or change your young person's photography/recording consent, please contact our Registrar at registrar@iona.vic.edu.au at any time. Your young person's consent preferences will be updated accordingly.

Upcoming Formal Uniform Day



Please note the upcoming formal uniform day on the final week of the Term – Tuesday, 23 June, for a whole school assembly.

Iona Pathways Press



This week's edition of the Careers and Pathways team's Pathways press is [available via the following link](#).



Healthy Masculinity Parent/Carer Evening – Reminder



HEALTHY MASCULINITY
WITH
DANIEL PRINCIPE
PARENT EVENING

FREE EVENT OPEN TO BOTH COMMUNITIES

TUESDAY 9 JUNE | 6.30PM - 7.30PM
SJC PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
135 Aphrasia Street, Newtown, Victoria 3220

OFFERING INSIGHTS INTO DIGITAL INFLUENCES
SHAPING BOY'S ATTITUDES AND PRACTICAL
STRATEGIES TO FOSTER OPEN COMMUNICATION
AND ENCOURAGE RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOURS

BOOK NOW <https://www.trybooking.com/DKXJS>

HOSTED BY
ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE GEE LONG
IONA COLLEGE GEE LONG



Date: Tuesday 9 June

Time: 6.30 – 7.30 pm

Venue: SJC Performing Arts Centre, Newtown

A reminder to register for a free parent/carers evening with Daniel Principe, focusing on healthy masculinity and the influences shaping boys today.

This event is open to both St Joseph's College and the Iona communities.

[Please register for the event via the following link.](#)

Winter Soiree

Date: Thursday, 4 June

Time: 6.00 pm

Location: Iona College – Stadium

RSVP online [via the following link.](#)

Term 2 Dates to Remember

Date	Event
Monday 13 April - Sunday 19 April	Admin Office Closed for Holidays
Monday 20 April	Practice GAT (Year 12s and Year 11s VCE 3/4 Students)
Monday 20 April	Student Free Day (Staff Professional Development)
Tuesday 21 April	Term 2 Starts
Wednesday 22 April	Iona College Cross Country
Thursday 23 April - Friday 24 April	Year 12 Retreat
Friday 24 April	Year 7 Embrace Day
Tuesday 28 April	Iona Athletics Carnival
Thursday 30 April	Flying Brick Cider House Music Performance
Monday 18 May	Blurred Minds Parent/Carer Evening (Francis Centre, 6 pm - 7pm)
Tuesday 19 May	Student Free Day (Staff Professional Development)
Thursday 21 May	Iona College Career Expo (Iona Stadium)
Tuesday 26 May	Reconciliation Week Assembly (Formal Uniform)
Monday 1 June - Wednesday 3 June	Year 7 Camp Group 1
Wednesday 3 June	Units 1 and 3 – All OATS and SACS
Thursday 4 June	Autumn Soiree
Monday 8 June	King's Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday 9 June	Daniel Principe Parent Carer Evening (6.30 – 7.30 pm St Josephs College Performing Arts Centre, Newtown)
Thursday 11 June	Year 10 Immunisation
Monday 15 June - Wednesday 17 June	Year 7 Camp Group 2
Tuesday 16 June	Student Free Day (Staff Professional Development) except for GAT Students
Tuesday 16 June	GAT (Year 12s and Year 11s VCE 3/4 Students)
Wednesday 17 June - Friday 19 June	Year 8 Camp Group 1
Saturday 20 June - Wednesday 1 July	Indonesian Study Trip
Monday 22 June - Tuesday 30 June	Central Australia Immersion
Tuesday 23 June	End of Term Assembly (Formal Uniform)
Wednesday 24 June	Year 8 Camp Group 2
Thursday 25 June	Year 12 Clogs Winter Ball
Friday 26 June	Term 2 Concludes (2:05 pm)
Monday 6 July - Friday 10 July	Admin Office Closed for Holidays
Monday 13 July	Student Free Day (Staff Professional Development)
Tuesday 14 July	Term 3 Starts

[A printable version of the Dates to Remember](#) is available online. Please note this is regularly updated as new events are added and changes are made.

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa