

ICOM INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of Islamic College Of Melbourne



IT'S OFFICIAL: The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme® is now on offer to Year 11 Students at ICOM starting in 2021!

THIS ISSUE: Primary Wellbeing Activities, Construction Developments, Foundation Student's 100th day of school celebrations & more...

Principal's Message



Assalamualaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh.

On behalf of all staff at the Islamic College of Melbourne, we are all thrilled to have our students return to onsite learning. Alhamdulillah, although this year has been a very uncertain year for all of us, seeing the excitement on everyone's faces as the students came back has been an absolute delight. There were a few tears and anxiousness from students on the first day but for most of the students, it was great to see them transition back into normal school life very smoothly and quickly. I would like to acknowledge our parents and teachers for their hard work and for being supportive during the ELearning period.

I would also like to thank parents and carers for your cooperation with the changes in the school pick up and drop off procedures. The College has continued with student temperature testing in the mornings and have introduced staggered dismissal times afterschool. The College has also allocated particular gates for students to exit at the end of the day, which will assist with social distancing guidelines.

Parents are reminded to abide by the face mask wearing rule when dropping off and collecting their children from school.

As we return to school this term and as the year comes to a close, I can assure you that Term 4 will be a productive term. Staff will continue to work with your children to ensure they are all prepared and ready for the next year level.

I take this opportunity to remind parents that attendance is more important than ever this term. The College strongly recommends and expects parents to have their children attend all days of school. By coming to school, students will not miss out on any learning and if needed will get the support they need to be ready for next year. The College is and will continue to take action against repetitive unjustified absences or late arrivals.

We will continue to hold annual events this term, including Secondary Transition Week, Orientation Day and graduations. The Foundation Graduation/Concert, Year 6 Graduation and the Year 12 Graduation will be bittersweet this year with the absence of our dear parents due to the Covid restrictions.

Alhamdulillah every year the College receives a great number of enrolments. We have finished all testing for 2021 enrolments and have organised information sessions for parents who have been accepted to the College for 2021. These sessions were held over Zoom and include an introduction from the College Principal, preparing for the first day of school, daily school practices, policies, procedures and the curriculum.

Even though students were not physically at school for Term 3, the College still held virtually STEM Week, Hajj Week and Arabic Week. We had a number of sessions and competitions running for each of these weeks and it was great to see a huge number of students participate and join in the festivities.

We are looking forward to another amazing term at ICOM and I hope everyone stays safe.

Dr Abdul M. Kamareddine
College Principal

Developments at ICOM

It is with great pleasure that I write to update you on the developments at the Islamic college of Melbourne.

Although 2020 was an exceptional year, interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, strict restrictions and remote learning, it was a very successful and productive year in terms of new construction at the College. I am pleased to update you all on the following developments:

1. Library and Canteen Building

The 6-million-dollar state of the art project is starting to take shape. Construction is expected to be completed in March of 2021. The building will comprise of the following spaces:

Ground level:

- Five classrooms for Year 6 students, Year 6 common area and Year 6 staff room.
- Spacious cafeteria with dedicated seating areas for male and female students.
- In-house canteen with state of the art equipment.
- SRC (Students Representative Council) Hub & Outdoor seating area.

First level:

- Spacious library with dedicated areas for male and female students.
- Two new spaces for extracurricular activities & clubs.
- Dedicated study facilities for Year 12 males and females.
- Secondary Careers room & Counsellor's Office.



The new Canteen & Library building construction developments as of Monday , 26th of November. Things are really starting to take shape.

Developments at ICOM

2. Double Storey Secondary Village

The current single storey secondary village will be replaced with a double storey structure to cater for the growing population of our secondary school. Construction has already commenced on this project and as a result, Year 7 – 9 classrooms have been temporarily relocated for Term 4 of 2020. The new project will be ready at the beginning of the 2021 school year and will include the following spaces:

- Dedicated level (ground level) for junior secondary students (Year 7 – 9).
- Dedicated level (first level) for senior secondary students (Year 10 – 12).
- Generous number of classrooms, offices, staff-rooms and multi-use spaces.
- Multi-purpose area that can be used for a range of activities.
- A lift and 3 new sets of stairs to ensure accessibility.
- Double toilets areas.



Preparations are being made for our new multi-storey Secondary Village construction.

Developments at ICOM

3. New synthetic turf area in Primary

The primary turf area has been replaced with new turf with a smart design integrating education into the space. The new turf area includes 2 outdoor chess areas, geometrical shapes, elements from the periodic table and much more.

These new projects are a great addition to the facilities at the College. We look forward to the completion of these projects to make them available for our students.

Dr Abdul M. Kamareddine
College Principal



New synthetic turf areas have been arranged in preparation for our students return this term.

Enrolment Information



Foundation Enrolments

Foundation Enrolments for 2021 are now closed. (closed 21/5/2020)

Foundation Enrolments for 2022 are now open. (closing 20/5/2021)

Year 1-7 Enrolments

Year 1-7 Enrolments for 2021 are now closed. (closed 21/5/2020)

Expressions of Interest for Year 1-7 in 2022 are now open. (closing 20/5/2021)

Year 8-12 Enrolments

Year 8-12 Enrolments for 2021 are now closed. (closed 21/5/2020)

Expressions of Interest for Year 8-12 in 2022 are now open. (closing 30/7/2021)

For Year 11 IB Diploma Programme Enrolments

Year 11 IB & Year 12 IB Enrolments for 2021 are now closed. (closed 21/5/2020)

Expressions of Interest for Year 11W & Year 12 IB in 2022 are now open. (closing 30/7/2021)

For Secondary Accelerated Program (SAP) Enrolments

Year 7 SAP, Year 8 SAP & Year 9 SAP Enrolments for 2021 are now closed. (closed 21/5/2020)

Expressions of Interest for Year 7, 8 & 9 SAP in 2022 are now open. (closing 30/7/2021)



Important Reminders

- If your child will not be returning in 2021, please submit a Student Withdrawal Form to the Administration Office. Completed forms can be emailed to receivables@icom.vic.edu.au
- Parents are reminded that in Terms 1 & 4 students are to be wearing the summer uniform, as per the Uniform Policy.
- Parents must advise the college of any medical conditions their child may have, whether it is severe or just a mild condition. This includes student with hay fever.
- **Lost Property:** The College currently have 5 unclaimed school blazers which have been in lost property for a number of months. These blazers are of a smaller size. If your child has lost a blazer please contact Lois, the College nurse.

Important Dates

November 27

Report Writing Day
(Student Free Day)

November 27

Year 6 Graduation

November 30

Secondary Awards Event

November 30

Orientation Day for
Years 1-6
(2021 Students)

November 30

Beginning of Years 7-12
Transition Week
(2021 Students)

December 1

Foundation Graduation

December 3

Foundation Students
Last Day of School

December 4

Year 1-12 Students
Last Day of School

December 7

Year 12 Graduation

A return to face-to-face Learning

Coping strategies and tips from our Secondary Counselor

Anxiety related to Covid-19

It is completely normal for a child to feel anxious about returning to school amidst a pandemic. Children all over the world have had the most daunting year of their lives and this needs to be validated and acknowledged by their teachers, parents and carers.

A smoother return to face-to-face learning

It is very important that the parents and/or guardians are themselves in a calm and positive state of mind, as that can impact the child immensely. Children learn how to cope with situations by observing the behaviour of adults in their lives. They replicate the behaviour that has been modelled in a situation and learn how to manage accordingly. This can greatly benefit the development of a child, or significantly hinder it.

- It is essential to openly talk and be empathetic, acknowledging concerns to allow these young adults to feel heard.
- Consciously model and reflect the normality of going back to school to make the transition smoother.

Student physical health & wellbeing

- It is absolutely vital for everyone to look after their health. Encourage students to eat healthy, stay hydrated, get enough sleep and incorporate physical exercise into their routine.
- Create a schedule to help students ease back into their busy school environment, with everything as pre-planned as practically possible.
- Practicing good sleep hygiene can help students be more attentive at school. [More on sleep hygiene here.](#)

Caring for student's mental health

- With the uncertainty associated with the unprecedented nature of the Pandemic, a child can be struggling with mental health issues. Prioritising their mental health and seeking the support needed is imperative for their wellbeing.
- Help students build resilience by listening to their worries and reassuring them. Help them overcome the taboo of mental health by encouraging them to talk openly about their mental state.
- Encourage them to seek help when the need arises, speak to the school counsellor, the wellbeing team or a medical practitioner or further support.

Continued on page 8.

A return to face-to-face Learning

Coping strategies and tips from our Secondary Counsellor

Academic challenges & goals

- It is to be expected that some students have fallen behind due to the uncertainty around multiple lockdowns and remote learning challenges. This may have completely disrupted their routine, but we can help by creating a timeline to catch up on work. This will motivate and encourage them to work towards their academic goal.
- It is also very important to set realistic goals with the students, based on their capabilities. Encourage them to set their own goals, to review their capabilities and set reasonable, achievable goals that they can agree upon.
- Through formal or informal assessment determine the student's academic level.
- If needed arrange catch up classes to academically support students who are lagging behind.
- Appreciate every small success. There is no better time than now to be celebrating every small achievement to motivate and encourage them to do even better.

Student motivation

- It is quite daunting for the students who are going back to school after a long time away, therefore, they will need extra support when it comes to reconnecting and re-establishing relationships with their peers.
- Providing ample short breaks while working can help in stress reduction resulting in increased productivity.
- Breathing exercises can help reduce stress levels and increase attention span.
- Remind them that this is a return to normal, remind them that this is a return to their comfort zone, remind them how awesome they are, remind them that if they desire, they can achieve anything!

Ms Dania Ahmad

Secondary Counsellor



HELPFUL LINKS & REFERENCE

[BeyondBlue: Anxiety & Depression Support & Resources](#)

[The Resilience Project: Wellbeing strategies and media](#)

[Department of Education: Mental Health Toolkit](#)

[Headspace: National Youth Mental Health Foundation](#)

[Lifeline Australia: Crisis Support & Hotline](#)

COVID-19 Resources & Helpful Links

Latest Federal Updates on Covid-19 (Updated regularly):

<https://www.health.gov.au/>

Victorian Government DHHS Twitter page (Updated regularly):

<https://www.twitter.com/vicgovdhhs>

Covid-19 Government Home Safety Plan

<https://t2m.io/home-safety-plan>

ICOM COVID-19 Wellbeing Pack:

<https://www.t2mio.com/icomwellbeing>

Mental Health Support for those in Isolation:

<https://www.t2mio.com/covid-mentalhealth>

Official Victorian Government Key Updates and support

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/>

Covid-19 Information for older Australians:

<https://www.t2mio.com/covid-elderly>

Foundation: 100th Day of School

On Thursday 22nd of October the Foundation students celebrated their 100th day of school!

We were all very excited to wear our 100 day t-shirts that we designed at home and some students also came to school dressed up as a 100 year old version of themselves!

During the day, the foundation students participated in many 100 day activities such as making arts and crafts gumball machines and a portrait of "When I am 100 years old, I will...".

After recess, we had a parade in our Foundation Undercover Area. Every class was excited to model their newly designed 100 day t-shirts and 100 year old dress ups. The students also enjoyed popping the large confetti balloons after counting by 10s to 100. We all had loads and loads of fun!

From the Foundation staff; Ms Culjak, Ms Osman, Miss Gibbons, Miss Myrianthopoulos & Miss Allen.

★ ★ ★ 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL! ★ ★ ★



Foundation students preparing their "100 days of school" parade artworks and some *very old* foundation students with their digitally enhanced "old faces".

Apple Ninjas

Last week the Primary Wellbeing Department kicked off our Wellbeing activities with an activity called “Apple Ninjas” where our Primary students were treated to a free spiralized apple, courtesy of their teachers and the College.

The Apple Ninjas activity is a fun way to get students into eating fruit, creates a talking point between friends, and gives the students some natural energy to help them sustain throughout their day. All students were offered apples that were supplied by the College but students also had the option of bringing in their very own apple to be cut into a spiral, which many of them chose to do also. This activity also presented our Year 6 students with a great opportunity to show some leadership skills by helping out, over all it was a great success!

Mr Danny Gray

Year 6 Team Leader



A healthy and fun snack for our Primary students, the Apple Ninjas activity was a great success.

Primary Art Update: Term 4

It is the start of Term 4 and I am grateful that we are able to welcome our students back to face-to-face learning!

Together, let's begin the teaching and learning journey, with excitement and fun, as always.

As all primary levels students have started participating in learning the elements of art, including the use of lines, shapes and colours. The Grade 1 students visualize their favourite toys using different processes and techniques, they can draw them in class also. Grade 2 Students were inspired by their favourite story-book character to draw and colour. Learning about characters' facial features and colours involved, all grade 2 students are showing great understanding in this area.

Grade 3 are involved in writing a creative story about school, and drawing and colouring an imaginative back to school picture of themselves, including friends they've missed during the last 2 terms away from face-to-face learning.

Grade 4 students are practicing how to draw and colour a creative image, finding inspiration with the use of different colours, materials and techniques. They are encouraged to be as creative as they desire.



Grade 1 students present their drawings of their favorite toys, some using mixed media.

Year 5 students are developing their own artistic style, further honing their skills in art using creative line movements, colours and techniques as they discuss the ideas behind their creations. They emphasise the use of strong solid colours & experimentation.

Year 6 students are tasked with finding creative inspiration in their culture, they are involved in searching for a famous artist who shares the same culture as themselves.

It is my pleasure to be the Primary art teacher here at ICOM, I am excited to have my students back in the classroom, all together so we can finish the year in a positive way. I wish all my students a very happy back to school journey Insha'Allah.

Ms Lamia Al-Asaly
Primary Art Teacher

Outdoor Story Time

For our second week of our Wellbeing activities we hosted an Outdoor Story Time session for our Primary students!

Foundation – Year 2 students were very lucky to have Ms Fatima and Ms Emna read them some great stories, and Years 3 – 6 had Ms Ajaj and Mr Gray read some stories to them too which turned out really well. The students got to engage with literacy in a more dynamic way and have fun with their friends at the same time. These activities allow our students to see their teachers in a different and fun light!

Mr Danny Gray
Year 6 Team Leader



Foundation students loved the Outdoor Story Time with Ms Fatima and Ms Emna.

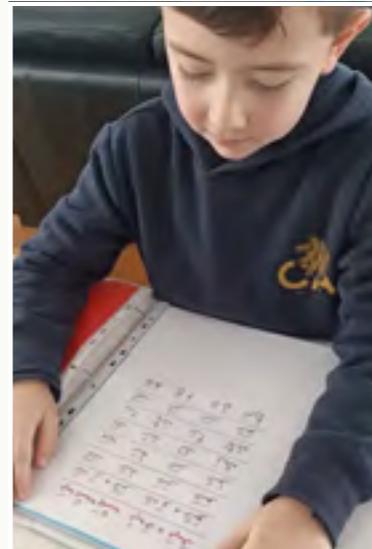
e-Learning Productivity from our Foundation Students

During E-learning students have been completing work efficiently and productively. They have been going through the understanding of Iqra and their level of reading has improved. Foundation students have been doing their best in learning as I can see their great efforts in accelerating.

They have learnt from their mistakes and continued to learn more throughout. Students have uploaded work of Iqra reading and quran memorisation, whilst during zoom classes they join letters. The videos I have given has aided them into understanding their pages, it allowed them to become more confident and boosted their energy. Also, I'd like to thank the parents and guardians for supporting their children in helping them whilst reading and practising, as it has played a big role in their reading during class time.

Ms Nagla Ali

Primary Arabic Teacher



Foundation students taking on the task of e-Learning with great success!



Primary Library News



Welcome Back!

Welcome back to Term 4, 2020.

We hope everyone is safe and healthy!

Overdue Books

A friendly reminder to return all library books before the year finishes to Mrs. Haifa, located in the Year 4 & 5 female staffroom, upstairs.

New Library Update

The ICOM Library is moving to its new location in Term 1, 2021 insha'Allah. We have packed all the books and resources into boxes for storage until the new library is complete. This will be the sixth move since the ICOM Library was established in 2013.

Borrowing Books

There will be no book borrowing for the rest of the 2020 school year.

Email all Primary Library enquiries to:
h.atatreh@icom.vic.edu.au.

Jazak'Allah Kheiraan.

Mrs. Haifa Atatreh
Teacher Librarian



ALL PACKED UP!

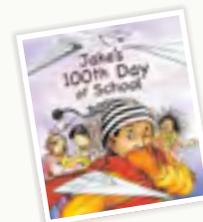


Featured Book

Jake's 100th day of school

Author: Lester L. Laminack

Date published: 2008



A story of a student named Jake explaining the 100 days of school. It is a wonderful experience. Find out what he did. *Watch it online using the link below:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Sros-R3BIM>



Ms Atatreh packing up the old library.

Secondary Library News



Alhamdulillah, the construction of the school's library and canteen building is on-going and will be completed as planned, insha'Allah.

Unfortunately, due to the construction of our new library and the building upgrade of our Secondary village, our library is closed for all of Term 4, 2020.

1) There will be no borrowing of books in term 4 and all books borrowed before the lockdown should be returned immediately. Secondary students can return the books to the Front Office.

2) To print, Secondary students can use the library printers that have been relocated to the gym, upstairs. Secondary students can use these printers during recess and lunch where library staff will be there to assist if needed.

3) ICOM and Wyndham City Libraries are working together to provide e-memberships to all secondary students. The e-membership will give an alternative to our students for reading materials like ebooks and audiobooks online, while the ICOM library is closed.



Here is a link to a YouTube video from Wyndham City Libraries that shows step-by-step **How to become an eLibrary Member**. This video was made to assist any students (and parents) with the process of signing up for an eLibrary membership: This is a free service provided by Wyndham City Libraries.

<https://t2m.io/eLibrary>

Email all Secondary Library enquiries to:
z.latip@icom.vic.edu.au.

Ms Zetty Latip
Secondary Librarian

Free Wyndham Library E-Memberships for Secondary Students

Islamic College of Melbourne and Wyndham City Libraries are working together to provide free eMemberships to all secondary students. As part of Wyndham Council's ongoing efforts to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19, all Wyndham City Libraries are closed to the public.

What are eMemberships?

eMemberships allow students to access Wyndham City Libraries' online books, audiobooks, study help services, educational games and movie streaming for free. We will soon have a range of online programs for you to join in.

How do eMemberships work?

Once your child has completed the sign-up process, their membership number and password will provide access to the Library's online resources. This eMembership will be valid for one year.

When will my child receive an eMembership?

The school will assist students in signing up online for eMemberships, Wyndham City Library staff will be providing step by step guidelines showing you how to sign up and use our online resources.

How can my child receive a full Library membership and Library card?

If you would like your child or any member of your family to have a library card please visit your local library and speak to our friendly staff once our libraries have re-opened. For now, all new memberships will be eMemberships.

I don't want my child to receive an eMembership, how can I opt-out?

If you would like to opt-out, please send an email to library@icom.vic.edu.au.

Benefits of eMemberships include:

- Studiosity get live, expert assistance from tertiary qualified tutors with subjects including writing, maths, science, economics and more.
- Encyclopaedia Britannica easy to use, and easy to find trusted information for all ages.
- eBooks, eAudiobooks and Video of school texts and recreational reading.
- Lynda.com premium online learning platform with thousands of hours of professionally produced video courses covering business, computing/IT and creative subjects.
- Plus, many more online free educational and learning resources and Apps.

For any further assistance regarding eMemberships, please email Sharyn.wheatcroft@wyndham.vic.gov.au.

Wyndham City Library staff remain on call to answer any questions you may have between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday on 8734 2600 or email: libraryadmin@wyndham.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Wyndham Libraries & Islamic College of Melbourne

wyndhamcity



ISLAMIC COLLEGE
OF MELBOURNE

Senior Debating News

What an incredible year it has been for our debating team.

Our senior school competition has wrapped up, with an amazing effort from all of our teams. A special mention goes out to our Year 9 Team consisting of Hibah Hashim, Warresha Akhtar and Ibshar Rahman who are the first ICOM team to make it to finals. Incredible effort, girls!

Dr Abdul has kindly offered to put on a celebration lunch at recess for those in the senior team, which will take place at recess on the Friday of Week 6. This will be a chance for all of our debating team to reflect on the wonderful year that was – despite the unusual circumstances of debating online.

As one debating chapter closes, another opens! The online junior debating competition heats up from Wednesday 28th October – with six teams competing with schools across the state to be the junior debating champions. Look out for updates on Facebook to see if ICOM can repeat the success of its senior teams' efforts!

Mr Jarrod Carrington
Debating Coordinator



The 2020 ICOM Senior Debating team.

ICOM YouTube Channel

Click here to subscribe to the Islamic College of Melbourne YouTube Channel or feel free to browse through 9 of our most recent YouTube videos below, click the images to view the videos through YouTube directly.

Subscribing to the ICOM YouTube channel with notifications on will allow you to receive helpful notifications from YouTube whenever we upload a new Islamic College of Melbourne Video.



ICOMTalks Episode 3: Students and Covid-19 Lockdowns



ICOM Wellbeing Department T-Shirt Design Competition Winners



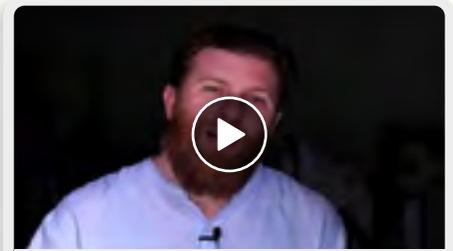
2020 ICOM Quran Competition Secondary Highlights & Winners



Welcome Back to our Primary students for Term 4!



ICOM Primary Arabic Week



Hajj Week - The Virtues of Dhul-Hijjah



ICOMTalks Episode 2: Dismantling Discrimination Discussion



STEM Week - 3D Printing with Mr Mutassem



STEM Week - Engineer's Insight

Primary Islamic Studies Overview

The Islamic College of Melbourne firmly believes that by educating our children in a balanced way in both government curriculum and Islamic studies they will grow up to be good Muslims who will thereby automatically become good citizens.

Students from Foundation to Year 6 have learnt a range of topics including the attributes of Allah (SWT), manners in Islam, Islamic greetings, pillars of Islam and the articles of faith in Islam.

Students have learned about the purpose of Allah's creations as it is described in the Holy Qur'an. Students were taught how they should deal with the creations of Allah in a way to please Allah (SWT) who is the creator and the owner of all creations.

Students have also learned about the five pillars of Islam with special attention on our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), some of the Prophet's life, how to perform the five daily prayers, how to fast in the month of Ramadan and briefly learnt about Zakat and Hajj.



They have also focused on the six pillars of Iman. The students have to learn the link between them, the five pillars of Islam and the significance of those pillars in their life. The students have learned about the purpose of Allah's creations as it is described in the Holy Qur'an.

The students were taught to make sure that they embody these pillars as soon they are required to do them. From these two major topics, Year Two focused more in detail on Wudu, Salah and fasting. They have also learnt some of Allah's names and the ways to thank and worship Him. They also enjoyed listening to Islamic nasheeds and Duas and have memorised some Daily Duas.

In Term 3 one of the tasks that our Year 1 students were required to do is to write a letter to their neighbours. The aim of this task was to show their kindness and care for their neighbours in these challenging times. Some photos to show their letters, parents' messages and the responses from their neighbours as well.

Ms Emel Ozturk

Primary Islamic Studies Teacher

Back to on-site learning with our Year 3s!

With students back at school, our Year 3s transitioned back into the classroom with plenty of energy, eagerness and a willingness to learn.

For our procedural writing unit, Year 3 students enjoyed hands-on learning opportunities including building a sand castle and making slime. During these activities, students worked towards improving their writing skills and discussed language choices with their peers. Afterwards, they checked the accuracy of their written procedure by following it word-for-word.

During numeracy classes Year 3 students enjoyed some fun in the sun. Students participated in a kickball lesson with a twist. The class was split into two, with one side fielding and the other kicking and scoring runs around two cones at different distances. Students took up the challenge to calculate the total distance, in metres, covered by their runs.

Year 3 students also competed in a 'Water Run' to practice calculating volume. Classes raced against each other to transfer water from one bucket to another and then calculated the total volume.

Students exhibited phenomenal agility and teamwork. This activity was sure a highlight!

Ms Sabiha Sahin
Year 3 Teacher

