

ICOM INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of Islamic College Of Melbourne



THROUGH TERM 3: Primary STEM Month, R U OK Week, English and Humanities week, Book Fairs and more!

Principal's Message



Assalamualaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh.

Dear parents, guardians and students,

Alhamdulillah, we have successfully concluded another term at ICOM. Term 3 was a very productive and beneficial term for our students. I am glad that lockdowns and remote learning are behind us and we are now having our dear students at school every day.

We ended Term 3 on a great note with the celebration of STEM Month in Primary School and STEM Week in Secondary School. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) incursions, science lab visits, competitions, activities and events were thoroughly enjoyed by our students and staff.

I look forward to our inaugural STEM Fair during Parent Teacher Interviews on Friday, 14 October 2022. I invite parents to attend and enjoy the special program with decorations, display stations, food stalls and activities including performances from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.

A highlight of Term 3 was ICOM's 2022 English and Humanities Week, which proved to be the best one ever, with a wide range of activities and competitions running throughout the week to promote and support students' understanding and engagement with these two important areas of study.

English, as the foundation for almost all other subjects in school, and Humanities for its wide range of specialisations and skillsets, form such an

important part of a student's education, and as such we celebrated them with the style and energy they deserve.

From cooking, to quizzes, races to costume competitions, students across the Secondary School were given the opportunity to flex their mental muscles and creativity to win glory, house points, and other prizes.

Highlights of the week include the Amazing Race, wherein students competed to be the first to correctly answer a gauntlet of questions, the House Feud which pitted the knowledge of each of ICOM's four houses against each other, and the costume competition where students were asked to create the best costume of a Historical or Literary figure.

Other major events included the Medieval Experience Incursion for Year 8, the Smoothie Bar Incursion in Years 10 and 11, and the Market Stalls Day, all of which were resounding successes!

R U OK is a question to start a conversation that could change a life. At ICOM, where we value the importance of mental health and wellbeing, we celebrated a whole week with focus on R U Ok activities. R U Ok Week was thoroughly celebrated at ICOM Primary and Secondary Schools.

Furthermore, to signify the importance of positive mental health and wellbeing and help raise awareness for this cause, we celebrated R U OK day where students were allowed to wear something yellow. Students celebrated R U OK activities, including whole school special assembly, R U OK Marquee, R U OK Affirmation Messages, R U OK Wellbeing Tug-Of-War Competition, Friendship Building and Collaborative Activities, Field of Flowers and a range of competitions. Primary SRC had milkshakes and donuts stations that were thoroughly enjoyed by students and staff.

A reminder that we can all ask each other R U OK any day of the year. We never know what others are going through and it is great to be there to help each other where needed.

Continued on page 2.

Principal's Message

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During, the second last week of term, PE Departments organised Footy Week, which is always a big sporting event at ICOM with incursions and competitions thoroughly enjoyed by our students. Friday, 16 September was Footy Day, where students dressed in their favourite teams colours to conclude Footy Week at ICOM.

With the devastating impact of floods in Pakistan, Primary and Secondary School Students Representative Councils held fundraising activities to raise awareness and collect funds. I am proud to belong to such a generous and supportive school community which managed to raise more than \$5500 to assist those suffering from this catastrophe. Insha'Allah by donating these funds, we can make a positive change in their daily lives.

As mentioned in the letter sent to all parents, due to the announcement of the Public Holiday on 22 September, Parent Teacher Interviews have now been postponed to Friday of the first week in Term 4, 14 October 2022. Parent Teacher Interviews are incredibly important to maintain a strong cooperation between school and home for the best of interest of our students, your children.

I wish everyone a safe Term 3 break and insha'Allah, I look forward to a successful and productive Term 4.

College Principal Abdul M. Kamareddine along side the College Secondary Welbeing and Counselling team during R U OK week.



Important Reminders

- If your child will not be returning in 2023, please submit a Student Withdrawal Form to the Administration office by emailing it to admin@icom.vic.edu.au
- Please ensure you inform the College if your personal details have changed, including emergency contact numbers, phone numbers and addresses.
- A reminder that Term 4 is back to the summer uniform. This includes wearing the school hat.

Important Dates

21 September 2022

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Last Day of Term 3
for students and staff

22 September 2022

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National Day of Mourning
Public Holiday

23 September 2022

—————
AFL Grand Final
Public Holiday

4 October 2022

—————
Admin, Office opens

11 October 2022

—————
Students commence Term 4

26 October 2022

—————
VCAA exams commence

1 November 2022

—————
Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

7 December 2022

—————
Last Day of Term 4 for
Foundation students

8 December 2022

—————
Last Day of Term 4 for Year
1-12 students

ICOM: R U OK Day

“R U OK?” day is a day in which people throughout Australia celebrate looking out for one another by asking “are you ok?.” Life can be quite challenging at times; we may all get distracted by our own challenges and emotions but by asking “are you okay?” to somebody around you, you may make a meaningful impact on somebody that is struggling. Engaging in a meaningful conversation can help create a stronger, safer, and supportive environment for each other.

This year at ICOM we celebrated “R U OK?” day at ICOM throughout the week 8 from 5th September to 9th September. The week included a marquee of activities and fun for the students to engage and interact with.

The activities included students playing a game of knockout basketball which involved having student’s verse each other to get two winners. The winners of the knockout challenge were then chosen to compete in the infamous “donut challenge.” The donut challenge included participants choosing two of their friends to help guide a donut that was tied with a string. The catch of the challenge was that the students could not use their hands when eating the donut! The students thoroughly enjoyed this, and it definitely created many laughs and giggles.

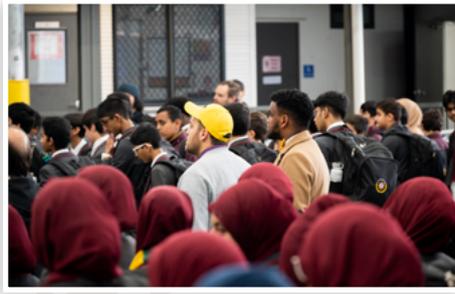
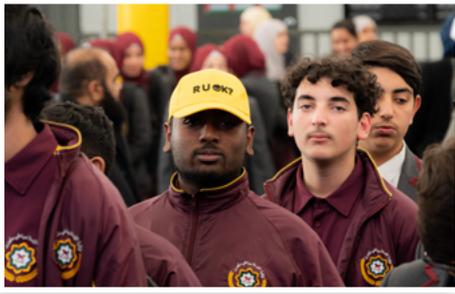
Other activities included students listening and participating in the “R u okay” interactive videos, students were encouraged to name ways they could assist their peers just by asking them R u okay? The benefits and impact of 3 short but effective words were explained and taught to the students so they could apply and reach other to their peers within their own circles.

This year the theme for R U OK? Was “No qualifications needed,” which means that each one of us can check in with our friends, families, peers, teachers etc.? Students were encouraged to remember 4 simple steps when opening a conversation, using ALEC: Ask, Listen, Encourage and Check In.

Students also completed some interactive activities such as writing on a note for someone “Who was NOT okay” and filling out a massive poster of “Who makes you happy.” This was specially a great hit with the students as they would list various things such as teacher’s names, parents, family, pets, peers and so much more. Students once completed all activities were treated at the end by creating their own cupcakes! Different options of icing and decorations were given to students. This was a remarkable success; the students loved the treat, and we also witness some great masterpieces of creativeness when designing their cupcakes.

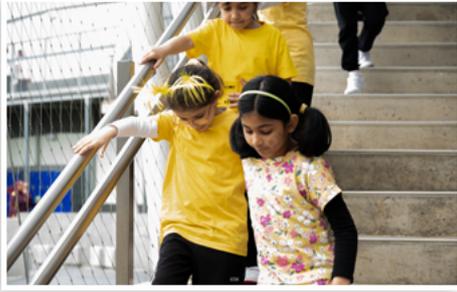
Additionally, on Friday 16th September a group of Year 9’s went to the Newport Mosque and spoke to the community about R U OK? day and bringing awareness to mental health. This was also followed by a free sausage sizzle for everyone. It was amazing to see the students get involved with the community and get out of their comfort zone. It was a huge success and there were a few great conversations witnessed. We look forward to bringing more awareness towards mental health in the future and letting the community, parents, and students know how important it is for us to check in with one another.

Mr Melih Bal
Secondary Counsellor



Selection of photography during R U OK week & Year 9 students before making their way to the A.I.C with our Principle

Primary: Moments from R U OK Week



Primary: STEM Month

What is STEM? Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. STEM program for primary encourages students to look at all things scientifically and allows their love for science to grow.

ICOM stem activities for primary includes:

Foundation- Coloured flowers

Year 1- Lava lamps

Year 2- Rain clouds

Year 3- chromatography

Year 4- Growing crystals

Year 5- Electricity

Year 6- Flame test

Students learnt how to use scientific methods to comprehend information to ensure their experiments were completed properly. Hands-on experiences develop curiosity which encourages students to think like scientists. Topics such as Rain clouds stimulate their curiosity and interest in all things STEM and how the clouds produce water.



Secondary: English & Humanities Week

This year the English and Humanities Departments were proud to present the most action packed English and Humanities Week ever. From Monday the 22nd to Friday the 26th of August, students experienced a myriad of activities and competitions designed to promote and support the skills and knowledge that come from the subjects taught by the two departments.

Each day held multiple events and competitions, leading up to the Friday afternoon assembly as our closing event.

Every the day started with quizzes in homeroom and interesting facts about the world, such as the fact that wearable eyeglasses have been around since 1284, or that Tug of War used to be an Olympic sport between 1900 and 1920!

Monday the 22nd saw students compete in the ICOM masterchef competition, where a whole myriad of foods were placed before our valiant judges. Sweet and savoury dishes formed a veritable feast, but there could be only one winner, Aariyan Ahmed's Biryani took the top prize. We thank each and every student for their participation.

On Tuesday we had the ICOM Amazing Race, with students racing across the school to answer questions ranging from History to Geography, Economics to Literature, and then decipher the location of the next question in order to advance. Teams ranged across all the year levels, but it was our senior students who ultimately claimed the top spots. Our winners were Mahhe Abdulahi, Daniyal Rafaqat, and Ibrahim Ahmed in first place, Rima El-Hassan, Mariam Taha, and Alia Baltagi in second, and Jillnar Elbob, Wajeeha Raza, and Maryam Malik taking the third place.

On Wednesday the 24th we had a business based incursion for years 10 and 11, where students worked in groups to develop their own hypothetical business selling smoothies. Over the course of the day the groups competed to create the best business and product, showing their business savvy and understanding of markets. This lead on to Thursday's Market Stalls, where students ran a number of stalls selling a variety of foods to the school.



Across Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday we had ICOM House Feud, where teams consisting of members of ICOM's four houses fought to prove which house was the smartest through a series of quizzes. Our finalists were Hikmah and Ilm, with the Yellow House claiming victory as the smartest house for 2022.

Friday was our busiest day, starting with the Character Dress up day and concluding with our Teacher vs Student debate. Year 8 students were treated to a Medieval experience, learning about what life was like during the age of Knights and Castles in Europe in combination with their History lessons, while a number of students joined poet Nour Abouzeid in a Poetry workshop to develop their writing capabilities. The end of the day saw the 2023 School Captain Candidates present their speeches to the school to curry favour and votes for their claim to the position, as well as a poetry performance by Nour Abouzeid.

In the afternoon we saw Nosayba Ajibaly, Marwa Al-Khalidi, and Wajeeha Batool Raza of the student debating teams versus the team of teachers, Mr Marten Luo, Mr Nick Cummins, and the Debating Coordinator Mr Jarrod Carrington on the topic of Mobile Phones in classrooms. In a closely argued debate, the student team took the win, bringing the total score to two wins for each side, meaning next year's debate will once again be a tie breaker. The day finished off with a speech by Dr Abdul Kamareddine on the power of words, a costume parade, and finally the awarding of prizes.

Overall it was a very successful week, and we thank everyone for their participation and interest. We look forward to doing even better next year!

Mr Josh Hughes
Secondary Teacher



Secondary: VCE VET Business Market Day

As a part of VCE VET Business Unit 3 and 4, year 11 and 12 students established market day stalls during Humanities and Literacy Week in term 3. Secondary students and esteemed staff members had a variety of options to purchase from during the market day. VCE VET Business students sold handmade jewellery, home baked desserts, and freshly made lunch to ICOM secondary community.

Students have learnt about delivering and monitoring customer service in their VCE VET Business classes and it was a great opportunity to apply the learning in real markets at ICOM. With thorough planning, professionalism, dedication, and particularly blessing of Allah (swt), we were able to raise generous donations of \$2,630. Out of this, \$450 has been donated for digging a water well in Pakistan and remaining \$2180 is donated to the Pakistan Floods Emergency Appeal.

May Allah (swt) bless students, valued staff members and everyone in ICOM community who supported the market day stalls for a good cause.

A special thank you and JazakAllahu khayran to Mrs Lina Koubar, Mr Hassan El Kurdi, Mr Munib Arshad and Mr Khaled who volunteered to help and support students during the market day.

Ms Payal Gondaliya
Secondary Teacher





Secondary: Smoothie Bar Incursion

During Humanities and Literacy Week, all students from year 10 and 11 pursuing VCE VET Business and VCE Business Management participated in a Smoothie Bar Incursion. During this incursion, students applied their entrepreneurial skills to design, blend and sell delicious smoothies. In this hands-on incursion, students were challenged to blend a healthy smoothie and formulate a marketing campaign to promote health and wellbeing in their communities. Students then presented their pitch to a panel of sharks (judges) to get an investment in their smoothie bar. Students developed a range of skills during the smoothie bar incursion including teamwork, critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, financial literacy, digital literacy, communication, and presentation skills.

Ms Payal Gondaliya
Secondary Teacher

What the students have to say about the Smoothie Bar:

Overall, the smoothie bar experience was a day like no other. The hosts were very interactive and clearly professionals in their field. The highlight of the incursion for me, was when each group had to create and present their own smoothie campaigns. Every group presented a very creative, yet very funny advertisement with over-the-top performance. It helped me apply theory, as it helped me understand the very important parts of establishing a business such as product name, product materials, costs and expenses, and advertising.

Aymen Abdulhamid
Year 11

The smoothie bar incursion was a great way to practise our marketing and collaboration skills. I learned the techniques that make great product pitch as well as the recipe that made the irresistibly best smoothie in the gym. This incursion helped my VCE VET Business studies when putting our product promotion theory into practise by creating a product pitch to present to everybody. There was high energy, positive vibes, great pitches, and lots of laughter.

Jasmine Abdulla
Year 11

My highlight of the excursion was when we were presenting our marketing campaign, all the boys were participating in the presentations which made the presentations more entertaining. My favourite presentation was smoothie kings (our marketing campaign) and entire audience was engaged in our presentation. During this incursion, I learnt how to create a professional marketing campaign and how to run it. I also learnt about the skills that are related to the marketing campaign and how to run a proper business. I think this is a very effective way to acquire entrepreneurial skills for young students to influence them to go on a career as an entrepreneur.

Aayan Hassan
Year 10



Secondary: Certificate II in Applied Language

In Term 3, Year 10 students completed Unit 4 of Certificate II in Applied Languages (VET Arabic), reading and writing basic workplace texts in a Language Other Than English.

One theme of Unit 4 was about food, where we focused on the language components used when conducting transactions at restaurants and writing menus and recipes.

As a part of the final activity in this unit, students had to write a recipe of their favourite Arabic food, and make dishes to share with their classmates. Some of these dishes included Bassbousa, Tabooli and lentil soup.

Students were able to use their target language for communicating, whilst studying about food that reflects on the diverse cultural aspects.

Thank you to all Year 10 students who completed all the four units of Certificate II in Applied Language

Ms Anwar Almera
Junior Secondary Arabic



2022 Interschool Girls Soccer

The Bachar Houli Cup was an important part of our interschool sports program. Both boys and girls represented the College alongside their Muslim brothers and sisters from other schools and enjoyed the fun competitive nature on the day.



Primary: Year 1 Science Works Excursion

On Thursday the 18th of August 2022, the Year One's went on an excursion to Scienceworks.

The Year One students participated in many different activities during their time at scienceworks. Firstly, they had the chance to visit the Planetarium, where they watched Tycho goes to mars! What an experience, the students learnt about night and day, space travel, the phases of the Moon and features of the lunar surface and the Sun, as they travelled with Tycho the dog.

Then, they explored the science of sports, how human bodies work, and design, materials, and technologies of sports equipment. Students' highlights were rock climbing, snowboarder, and racing against Cathy Freeman!

Lastly, they explored the different aspects of sight and light as well as a rest zone, where they enjoyed a bit of relaxing time.

What an experience the year one students had at science works.

Ms Aida El Houli
Year 1 Team Leader



Foundation: 100th Day of School

On Tuesday 16th of August, 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 person.

In the morning, we had an Assembly in the school gymnasium where we sang and danced to our Jack Hartmann Grandma and Grandpa song. We had a parade and 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.

During the day, the foundation students participated in many 100 day activities. Some of the activities included: morning tea in our classrooms (fairy bread and orange juice or apple juice), making arts and crafts gumball machines and our extremely fun 100 day scavenger hunt.

We all had loads and loads of fun!

Ms Michelle Culjak
Foundation Teacher and Team Leader



Foundation: Beach Experience

This week in Smart Spelling, the Foundation students learnt about the Word of the Week BEACH

b	ea	ch
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On Friday 9th of September, the Foundation students celebrated a Beach Experience by bringing to school some beach items for a picnic and hot chips lunch/afternoon tea.

The students enjoyed bringing to school various beach items such as beach towels, sunhats, sunglasses, buckets and spades and beach balls and shared the afternoon with their friends. It was great to see the students enjoying this special day by having a play with their friends, a hot chips picnic and beach experience with their classmates

Ms Michelle Culjak
Foundation Teacher and Team Leader





Primary Library News

Asalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh,

We had big and amazing events happened in the ICOM Library Ma'sha'Allah.

Mrs. Haifa had the opportunity to speak at the Schools Library Association of Victoria (SLAV) seminar. She represented the ICOM Library and shared her experiences in setting up a school library from scratch. The feedback was incredible and very rewarding. It was a fantastic experience speaking to other library professionals nationally and internationally.

We also had the wonderful two book fairs, the Ali-gator book fair and the Scholastic book fair. It was great seeing the students purchasing their favourite books and stationery.

Al-hamdu'Allah we received 82 Arabic and Islamic books/resources from Ali-gator for our ICOM Library. We received 225 books from Scholastic for our ICOM Library. I would like to say a huge thank you to the students, staff and the parents.

As the term is ending, please ensure that all ICOM Library books are returned to avoid a library fine. These include the take home reader books and the library books students borrowed from the ICOM Library throughout the term.

Our wonderful primary students also created R U OK posters to display around the ICOM Library. Excellent work. Much appreciated.

Jazak'Allah Kheiraan and Thank you

Ms Haifa Atatreh
Primary Teacher Librarian.





Featured Book: Hadekato al arrkam (Counting in the garden)

Author: Kim Parker **Date published:** 2006

This is an Arabic book that was published by Scholastic is all about numbers in the garden. Read this fantastic book in our ICOM Library. You can also watch this video - it is a similar story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCTxmdowr4Q>





Secondary Library News

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu

With the expansion of the ICOM Library, hosting two books fairs at once - the Scholastic and Ali-gator Book Fair, is a showcase of the dedication the Islamic College of Melbourne has to always improving their services.

The ICOM Library is always open to sharing one of its two large clubrooms to incursions such as the poetry workshop hosted by a special guest - Nour Abouzeid!

It's truly great to see students and teachers enjoying the library. On Character Day, popular fictional characters were roaming among the shelves, senior secondary students actively interacting with their junior peers on R U Ok Day and lastly, an Islamic Talk with the Year 12 cohort presented by Dr Abdul Kamareddine.

Mr George Demetrios
Secondary Librarian

Ms Humairaa Suliman
Secondary Library Assistant



Primary: Counselling Services

At ICOM, our primary counselling team has two counsellors, Sr. Ola Lahham and Sh. Furkan Jabbar. Both counsellors work collaboratively, along with the Head of Primary Student Services, Br. Omar Abdo, to support our students with emotional support. Alhumdulillah, through our work, we have had great success with the students. We have supported students that have been struggling with emotional regulation, environmental factors, and trauma.

Delivering “The Muslim Student Character” program

Throughout Term 3, our team delivered the interactive classes to all Primary students, empowering them with various groups of tools to manage healthier social interactions from an Islamic perspective. Our students learnt through role-play and virtual content about manners and powerful strategies to prevent bullying. At ICOM, bullying is not okay. This message is reflected in all our practices, inside and outside classrooms, and through our behaviour management policies. The best tool to combat challenges and make differences is education. We endeavour to educate all our students about etiquette and how to support each other.

Collaboration with a Psychologist

Our counselling team is delighted to announce the collaborative work with Mind Care Consulting to provide various groups of psychological assessments. These assessments are conducted by a psychologist, Sr. Zahraa Abdelzاهر. Alhumdulillah, we have successfully completed assessments for a number of referred students and have enriched the learning and support systems for these students. The information gathered from these assessments not only enriched the environment in the school settings, but also provided parents with the tools and strategies to enrich the home environment.

Work Placement at ICOM

ICOM has supported members from our community in many ways for many years. The counselling department this term has supervised the placement of Sr. Khadijah El-Masry who is a psychology student at RMIT university. Sr. Khadijah worked closely with Sr. Ola Lahham during her time at ICOM and helped make a difference to the students. Together, they created ICOM's Friendship Puzzle and displayed it on the Wellbeing board in the Primary Building. Come by and see this during our next school event.

Mr Omar Abdo
Head of Student Services