

# ICOM INSIDER

*The Official Newsletter of Islamic College Of Melbourne*



**TERM 4:** Year 6 Graduation Ceremony, Year 12 Graduation Ceremony, Secondary Annual Awards Night, Wellbeing Message, 2023 Important Dates & Reminders and more!

## Principal's Message



*Assalamualaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh.*

Dear parents, guardians and students,

I always start by praising Allah SWT, lord of the heavens and the earth and send his prayers and salutations upon our beloved, the best of mankind, Prophet Mohammed PBUH. Alhamdulillah, we have had another productive, eventful and successful year at ICOM. I am grateful for the immense support from the ICOM community as we continue to achieve our goals for the best interest of our students.

Over the past years, the College has steadily increased its enrolment numbers with over 1570 students enrolled in 2022. With student numbers increasing, the College also increased and improved its facilities and practices to support the high quality educational programs on offer at ICOM. We look forward to the completion of the new state of the art primary school building which is expected to be completed mid 2023 inshallah.

The College prides itself on the 3 pillars that we strongly believe in adhering to: ICOM is an Academic School, a proud Islamic School and a school with emphasis on students' Welfare and Wellbeing.

In 2022, the College was proud to be a recipient of the Schools that Excel Winners Award. ICOM featured in The Age article celebrating schools that achieve outstanding improvement in their VCE results. I

am proud that 100% of our Year 12 students who graduated in 2021 were given University offers in their chosen field for 2022. This is a great achievement and I wish our graduates all the best in their future career paths.

Our Secondary School programs, Junior and Senior, are often described as exemplary; these programs are among some of the most strategic, considered & highly valued in the secondary education category. From the opportunities that we make available for our students to the varied pathways that can be accessed, ICOM is always looking for strategies to improve and build on our Secondary offering.

The senior secondary pathways of VCE, VET and IB are perfectly tailored to accommodate to our senior secondary students' needs. In addition to that, the Secondary Accelerated Program (SAP) continues to be a successful program catering for our high achieving and gifted students.

In 2022, the College introduced and designed the Diverse Educational Enrichment Program (DEEP) to assist students in developing foundational skills in Literacy and Numeracy and to guide them into suitable educational pathways. Students in DEEP are grouped into small classes in the subjects of English and Mathematics where they undertake a suitably differentiated mainstream curriculum that meets their needs.

A special highlight of the 2022 year was ICOM's annual Quran competition Awards Night. The event celebrated all of our students across Primary & Secondary schools who memorised, recited & excelled at their Quranic studies.

It was an evening like no other, with performances and celebrations rivalling many of our other large-scale events. All of our super-star students and dedicated teaching staff & parents in attendance made this special ceremony truly incredible.

**Continued on page 3.**

## Principal's Message (Continued)

This year, our Primary & Secondary Quran competitions were more extensive than ever, with specific competitions for our general Primary & QAP students and new categories for Secondary students including a Short Khutba/Islamic Speech category and Azan category.

Our Health and Physical Education programs continue to successfully cater for the needs of our students. In addition to quality classes and professional training, our HPE Programs in 2022 included: Gymnastics, swimming, Healthy Harold incursions, footy clinics, circus skills incursions, horse riding and archery incursion, self-defense seminars and after school sports training. Primary and Secondary Athletics Days are always some of the most anticipated sporting events of the school year and by far the largest, with large student cohorts coming together for a day of physical tests and triumphs.

In addition to this, Interschool sports continue to be a strong part of our sports program at the College. We are proud of the efforts and achievements of our students in 2022. Our students trained well, participated and achieved high scores in multiple inter school sport competitions throughout the year including: Soccer, basketball, volleyball, footy, cricket, table tennis and badminton.

Our debating team had a great successful year participating in many rounds of inter school debating and a number of our students scored best speaker award multiple times. We are all super proud of the entire team's effort this year and it was a great experience to host the junior debating competition at ICOM in Term 4.

In addition to this, ICOM students participated in the Plain English-Speaking Award (PESA) Competition Heats which was an excellent opportunity for students to build self-confidence and extend their skills in oral communication, speech writing and research.

As we near the end of 2022, I look back and reflect on some of the great events and activities we had throughout the 4 terms of this year. In addition to the Leadership, Careers & Pastoral Care Programs, Year 3 Movie Night, year 4 Sleepover, Year 5 Sovereign Hill Camp, Year 6 Canberra Camp, Year 8 Sleepovers, Year 9 full first aid training, Year 9 Sports and Wellbeing Camps and Year 12 Tasmania study camp, I wish to highlight the following events:

- **World Hijab Day:** We celebrated World Hijab Day, with all students taking part in this amazing annual event where students and staff come together to celebrate the beauty of the Hijab and all that it stands for. The events of the day included a special year 5 Hijab event, an outdoor Hijab Styling Booth, henna stalls and a Hijab Design Competition.
- **Anti-bullying:** A range of anti-bullying incursions and sessions were delivered early in the school year to every class at ICOM. On Anti--bullying day, most of our students dressed in blue to show their unified stance on bullying and raised funds towards Bully Zero, one of the leading organisations who help stamp out bullying in schools across Australia. This was followed up with more events and activities planned by the College's Primary and Secondary Wellbeing departments including our 4 full time qualified counsellors. These programs shows students how to regulate their emotions and connect with people in a positive way. It also explores strategies for the safe use of technology, dealing with bullying and getting the right balance between screen time, sleep, exercise and face-to-face communication.

**Continued on page 4.**

- Primary and Secondary “Meet the Teachers” Information Nights were successful events, early in the school year, to build a strong relationship between the teachers and parents for the best interest of our students. During these events, the names of the 2022 Primary and Secondary Schools Students Representative Council (SRC) were announced.
- ICOM’s Annual Multicultural Week celebrated amazing Palestine and all of its incredibly strong & proud people by running many engaging and educational activities. Our students learnt about Palestine’s history and Islamic significance in addition to experiencing the Palestinian culture, dresses and cuisine. The week was concluded by Multicultural Fair where parents visited the College and enjoyed the many stalls, attractions and performances celebrating Palestine.
- Multicultural Week is also the week where we raise funds to continually support the sponsorship of 13 orphans. Alhamdulillah, with the generosity of our parents, students and staff, we raised enough funds to maintain this noble initiative.
- Ramadan is always a very special time at ICOM. We thoroughly celebrate the blessed month starting with special welcome assemblies, tailored Ramadan packs and gifts, students Iftars, quizzes, talks and much more. The end of the blessed month is celebrated with the College’s annual Eid Festival exclusively held for our students.
- A significant event on the ICOM calendar is the Annual ICOM Careers Expo. By the time our students have graduated Year 12, they would have had the opportunity to attend 4 of these incredibly invaluable events, equipping them with more than enough experience and knowledge to confidently choose the correct path after their Secondary learning has been completed. Every year the College invites dozens of exhibitors from Government bodies, recruitment agencies and the higher-education sector to attend this event where Secondary Students are invited to learn more about their future careers and the pathways that will lead them there. This year's event was amazing with more exhibitors than ever, giving students an abundant amount of information and a Year 9 information session for parents to attend.

The College had spectacular weeks including: Primary Literacy Week, Primary Hajj Week, Secondary Hajj / Arabic Week, Primary Arabic Week, Secondary Literacy and Humanities Week, Primary and Secondary R U Ok Weeks, Primary and Secondary STEM Weeks in addition to parents’ information sessions, Parent Teacher Interviews Fairs and much more.

The year ended with magnificent events to celebrate our students’ achievements including: Foundation End of Year Concert, Year 6 Graduation, Secondary Awards Night and Year 12 Graduation. All events were a great success alhamdulillah and were thoroughly enjoyed by our parents, students and staff.

With the plans we have in place for 2023, I have no doubt that 2023 will be a successful and outstanding year at ICOM. Thank you all for your support and I wish you a safe and nice break insha’Allah.

**Dr Abdul M. Kamareddine**  
*College Principal*

## Important Reminders

- Parents are reminded to download the Parent Portal under the name “Seqta Engage”.
- If you have a valid Concession Card, then please complete the form and return it to the administration office as soon as possible. Please note that if we do not receive the form by the above date then unfortunately all Concession Card discounts of \$300 per Primary school child and/or \$400 per Secondary school child will be removed. You can obtain a copy of the form at: [https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/CSEF\\_application\\_form.pdf](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/CSEF_application_form.pdf)
- Parents are reminded that school commences for students at 8:35am.
- Please ensure that you inform the College or update your details on the Parent Portal if your personal details have changed, such as emergency contact numbers, phone numbers, address, etc
- Parents must advise the College of any medical conditions their child may have, whether it is severe or just a mild condition.
- The College cannot provide medication to students unless it has been prescribed to them. This includes hay fever tablets and paracetamol. If your child requires medication your child’s name and directions must be on the label before handing any medication to the College nurse.
- With new items, including stationary, uniform and school items please make sure your child’s names are clearly visible with labels attached to any new items students may be bringing into the school.
- In Terms 1 and 4, students should be wearing the ICOM summer uniform.

## Important Dates

**20 January 2023**

Office reopens Term 1,  
2023

**31 January 2023**

First day of Term 1 for  
2023 Year 1 - 12 Students

**1 January 2023**

First day of Term 1 for  
2023 Foundation Students

**24 February 2023**

CENSUS

**27 February 2023**

Foundation to Year 2  
Photo Day

**28 February 2023**

Year 3 to Year 6  
Photo Day

**1 March 2023**

Secondary Photo Day

**13 March 2023**

Labour Day Public  
Holiday

**22 March 2023**

Ramadan Commences  
(TBC)



# Year 12 Graduation Ceremony

On the 28th of November, ICOM hosted the annual Year 12 Graduation Ceremony. Proud and supporting families and friends in addition to ICOM's superstar staff joined in the celebration of a 13-year long journey, which marked the culmination of years of hard work, the realisation of goals attained and the acknowledgement of successes achieved.

As each graduate presented to the stage to receive their final graduation certificate, they were reminded of the ICOM journey that they had taken to reach this milestone. The College Principal Dr Abdul M. Kamareddine gave personal tribute to each graduate as each student has left and will continue to leave an indelible legacy of excellence, achievement and a fine ethos and Islamic tradition for generations to come.

ICOM would like to congratulate the graduating class of 2022 and wish them the very best for their future endeavors. We wish to remind our Year 12s that even though they achieved this significant milestone in their life, there are many more to achieve ahead. May Allah bless and guide all our students.













## Year 6 Graduation Ceremony

2.12.22 marked an incredibly important day for each of ICOM's Year Six students. They celebrated their end-of-year achievements and accomplishments for their final primary year at Lakeside Banquet and Convention Centre, Taylors Lakes. The 2022 Year Six Graduation was a memorable event for the whole cohort who attended this ceremony with friends and family and it was an outstanding turnout.

Students geared up in their graduating gowns, sashes and mortarboard hats with dangling tassels signifying their proud moments.

The MC's Kamran, Shahida, Humza and Rida commenced the ceremony on time. It started off with Allah swt's Blessed name and a Quran recitation. The Australian values and the First People were recognised with the Australian National Anthem. The iconic poem 'Welcome to Country' written by Dorrothea Mackellar, that depicts Australia in all its contrasts, was also gracefully performed by Arzin, Manha, Fatima, Ayah, Rabab and Ammara. All the performing students took pride in their respective recitals and outshone each other with their remarkable presentations.

The Junior College Caption, Mysha Khan, took the students down the memory lane with her past recollections and experiences.

Students, who were anxiously waiting, were awarded their Graduation Certificates, to be officially declared the 2022 Year Six Graduates.

They dined with their peers and enjoyed the three-course meal with mixed excitement and pleasure. Most of them preferred to have their koalas signed by friends and teachers, than eat the amazing food.

The students' immense effort and dedication for their hard work, throughout the year, was acknowledged and the 2023 Year Six Academic Achievement Awards were presented to those well-deserving recipients.

The guests applauded two budding writers, Aidah and Salmah, who inspired their fellow students with their creative expression of thoughts by their poetry recitation.

Zara and Rayyan delivered the vote of thanks to the esteemed organisers, participants and guests for gracing that unforgettable event with their presence.

Shaikh Hashim concluded the evening with a beautiful supplication and heart-warming prayers for all the graduating students for their future successes and accomplishments.

May Allah swt bless our new graduates and always guide them on the right path Insha'Allah.







# Primary Wellbeing

To the ICOM Community,

Firstly, all praise is due to Allah (swt). with Him, all things are possible. All our practices in the Wellbeing Department are in accordance with His wisdom through Al Quran, and the teachings of the best of us, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Our team is made up of, seven caring Behaviour and Wellbeing Coordinators who represent the students in their cohort. They are the experts of their respective cohort and work tirelessly to ensure the school grounds and classrooms are a safe and healthy environment.

Two passionate counsellors who provide emotional support and healing to students during moments of need. The successes of our counsellors were in abundance this year, alhumdulillah, and is a testament to their continued commitment to the betterment of student wellbeing.

Two driven leaders in Primary Student Services who are responsible for enhancing the College's wellbeing framework, embedding current and credible research in procedural development, liaising with the school community for positive student outcomes, and leading the Wellbeing Department, along with wellbeing initiatives, at the College.

We are a unified body of individuals with a common goal; to equip our students with the tools they require to flourish. I would like to thank each one of you for your contributions this year. In one way or another, your actions have influenced the students' wellbeing, and/or the growth of the College community.

## **Mr Omar Abdo**

*Head of Primary Student Services*

Counselling at ICOM, for those who have obtained it, is an important part of students' overall educational experience. Counselling provides a safe and supportive space for students to discuss their personal and academic concerns, and to seek guidance and support in navigating the challenges of growing up and pursuing their goals.

Generally speaking, counselling typically involves promoting mental and emotional well-being, as well as helping students develop the skills and knowledge, they need to lead fulfilling and productive lives. This can include a range of activities, such as individual and group counselling sessions, workshops on topics such as bullying and character-building, and referrals to outside resources and services as needed.

Our counsellors at ICOM are trained to provide support and guidance that is sensitive to the unique cultural and religious needs of students. They may incorporate Islamic teachings and principles into their counselling sessions, and can provide guidance on how to navigate the challenges and opportunities of being a Muslim in today's world. Many Islamic schools place a strong emphasis on the importance of community and building strong relationships with others. Counselling can provide a space for students to connect with one another, to build supportive networks, and to develop a sense of connection and belonging to their school and their faith.

Overall, counselling at an Islamic school is an essential part of the educational experience, providing students with the support and guidance they need to thrive academically, emotionally, and spiritually.

## **Sh. Furkhan Jabbar**

*Primary Counsellor*

As the newest member of the counselling team at ICOM, I am in awe of the incredible support the school offers students in relation to their wellbeing. Since beginning my time here these last few weeks, I have had the privilege of working with a range of students, getting to know them and engaging in various group and one-on-one sessions. A truly special part of the counselling process at ICOM is the integration of Islamic concepts into the counselling process, encouraging reliance and trust in Allah SWT, referencing of Islamic values and characteristics, and speaking to the students in a language they understand. This unique counselling experience will allow the most effective and holistic support for students that empowers them to utilise their faith as a support through difficult and challenging times.

I am certain that together with a fantastic team of experienced professionals, we will be able to support our students through their primary school years. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to join the ICOM community and I ask Allah SWT to allow us to remain sincere and steadfast in all our pursuits. Ameen.

**Ms Sondus Sammak**  
*Primary Counsellor*



# Counselling Stigma

As students and parents at ICOM, we should be thankful that our school has counselling services available to us. These services provide us with access to trained and experienced mental health professionals who can help us navigate the challenges and pressures of daily life. Counselling is an important aspect of mental health care that can help individuals overcome their challenges and lead healthier, happier lives. Unfortunately, there is nonetheless often a stigma surrounding counselling, particularly in Muslim communities. Stigma, in this context, refers to the negative attitudes and beliefs that are associated with seeking out counselling or therapy.

At ICOM, we have unfortunately seen firsthand the negative impact that this stigma can have on students who may benefit from counselling services. Many families are hesitant to seek out counselling, either because they view it as a sign of weakness or because they are afraid of what others may think.

This stigma is not only harmful to the individuals who may benefit from counselling, but it can also have negative effects on the wider community. When people are afraid to seek help for their mental health challenges, they may be more likely to experience depression, anxiety, or other mental health issues. This can lead to a decrease in productivity and overall well-being within the community.

At ICOM, we wish to combat this stigma and promote the importance of counselling. We have implemented a counselling program that is available to all students, and we have trained our staff to recognise the signs of mental health challenges and refer students to our counselling services as needed.

In terms of providing benefit, counselling at a school cannot be underestimated as it can help students overcome mental health challenges and lead healthier, happier lives. It can provide a safe and supportive space for students to talk about their feelings, thoughts, and experiences, and it can help them develop coping skills and strategies to manage their emotions and behaviours so that they may grow to be healthy and productive adults.

We believe that by breaking down the stigma surrounding counselling and promoting mental health awareness, we can create a healthier and more supportive community for all of our students. It is important for us to recognise that seeking help for mental health challenges is a sign of strength, not weakness, and that we all have a responsibility to support one another in our mental health journeys. The importance of mental health cannot be understated, as it impacts every aspect of our lives. Good mental health is essential for leading a happy and fulfilling life, and it is crucial for maintaining healthy relationships and achieving personal and professional success. By prioritizing mental health, we can improve our own well-being and that of those around us.

**Sh. Furkhan Jabbar**  
*Primary Counsellor*

# Year 6 Big Day Out

Year Six celebrated their last primary day as a Big Day Out at Luna Park on Friday 6.12.22.

All's well that ends well, that's how the day could be summed up. However it started off with an unpredictable wet weather as Melbourne is most famed for, but Alhamdulillah, later through the day, jackets and jumpers were taken off when a bright sun wiped up every remnant of the early morning rain.

All the students had the time of their lives as they entered the much-anticipated venue and rushed towards their favourite rides, bunched up with their friends and peers. They were seen consoling the ones who had their reservations to go on extreme rides. Students huddled together, queued up for the much sought-after rides, lined up to get their favourite snack or just roamed around with their mates to enjoy the amazing, sunny day.

All in all, they showed fantastic behaviour displays and made all their teachers proud of them all, with zero incidents or expectation reminders, on the buses and at the park, too.

The day ended when we arrived back at school, just in time to offer the Jumah prayer, led by Mr Omer.

**Ms Mehnaz Naqvi**  
Year 6 Team Leader



## Year 6 Smoothie Bar Incursion

The Year Six Smoothie Bar Incursion was a highly activated day which focused on Humanities Unit for Term Four – Business and Economics ‘Effects of consumer and financial decisions’.

Students developed their skills in teamwork, critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, financial literacy, communication and presentation skills.

In this hands-on and delicious full day incursion, students were challenged to create a smoothie product and marketing campaign that promoted health and wellness in their community.

While they worked in teams, students discovered what it took to become a business owner. They investigated the preferences of their target market, design and learned about cost and profit before trialling their delicious and nutritious blends.

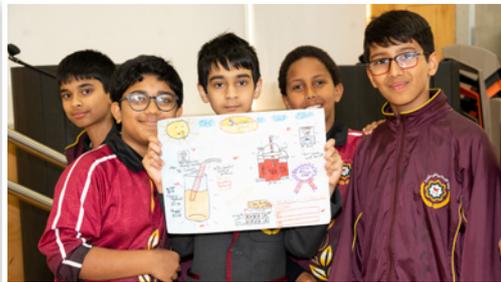
Once they had the ultimate smoothie recipe, students used their creativity and design skills to produce marketing materials and promoted their product and brand.

Then it all come down to The Pitch!

At the end, teams competed to convince the panel of sharks (teacher judges) to invest in their company.

### Ms Mehnaz Naqvi

Year 6 Team Leader



Year 6 Students during the Smoothie Incursion. Students were introduced to how to run a smoothie bar then presented their pitch.

# Foundation Concert

On Tuesday 6th of December, the Foundation students celebrated the end of the school year by having a Foundation School Concert held in the Secondary Village.

The Six Foundation classes prepared songs to perform in front of their families and teachers - Have an Awesome Day, What I am, Will I am, Superhero Song, Reach for the Stars, Some Kind of Wonderful, Allah Made Everything.

It was such a wonderful celebration to end the first year of schooling for the Foundation Students.

**Ms Michelle Culjak**  
*Foundation Team Leader*



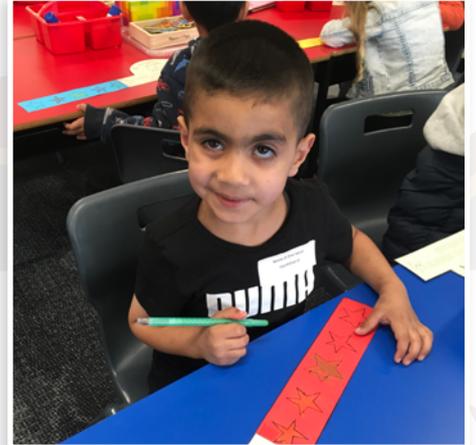
# 2023 Foundation Orientation Day

On Thursday 8th of December, it was the Foundation 2023 Orientation Day. There was lots of excitement as the new students met their new classmates, homeroom teachers and specialist teachers.

The students participated in a variety of games and activities to get to know each other and enjoyed going for a school tour and playing on the playground.

We are looking forward to a fantastic 2023 school year

**Ms Michelle Culjak**  
*Foundation Team Leader*



# Principal's Lunch

On Wednesday the 23rd of November, one of the most anticipated days of the year took place with our Principal's Lunch!

In celebration and recognition of our students, who have demonstrated excellence this year, students enjoyed a day filled with rides, sports activities and of course, Lunch with our Principal Dr Abdul M. Kamareddine.

Dr Abdul M. Kamareddine bought out his best party tricks and even shared a 10kg block of chocolate with all the students!

It was an incredible way to finish off what has been a successful year in both Primary and Secondary, Alhamdulillah!





# Mentoring Celebration

On Monday 21/11, we celebrated the relationships that have been forged over four terms through the 2022 mentoring program. Throughout the year, 23 of the Year 10 mentors guided and supported the transition of all Year 7 students into secondary school. They were there to guide their mentees with matters related to organisation, embracing change, developing resilience and establishing healthy relationships.

Our College mentoring program is established on research-based framework, which proves the immense benefits of running quality mentoring programs. From the research and from this year's experience, it is worthy to note that the mentees are not the only ones that benefited, but the learning and growth extended to the mentors who developed their communication and leadership skills, which will benefit them for the remainder of their college years and beyond.

To all the Year 10 mentors, the College is proud of your dedication, and we look forward to your contributions and leadership as Year 11 senior school students in 2023.



# Secondary Annual Awards Night

To mark the outstanding achievements of our students and the end of the 2022 academic year, the Islamic College of Melbourne held its Secondary Annual Awards ceremony on the 8th of December.

During this prestigious event, ICOM Students were praised and acknowledged for their solid determination and remarkable performance across the various key learning areas in addition to the announcement of the winners of the 2023 Scholarships.

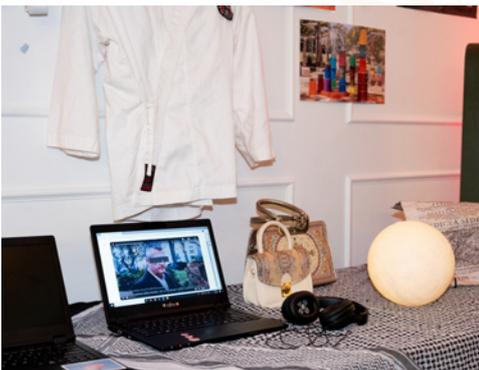
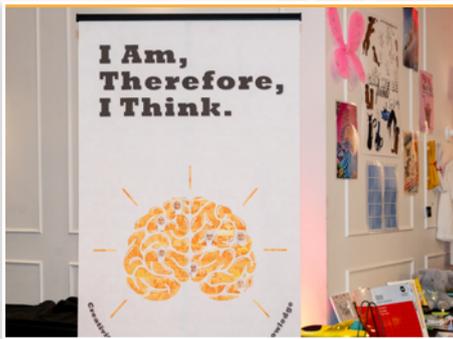
Alongside the ICOM academic awards and scholarships, special awards were announced such as the 2022 Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholar's Program, the 2022 ADF Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Awards and ADF Future Innovators Awards.

The awards night was also a showcase for the IB Diploma Students' CAS projects and TOK exhibition themed 'I Am, Therefore, I Think' featuring the 'ICOM Mirror' Magazine that has been a great success since 2021.

The awards night is a testament to the outstanding work of our superstar ICOM teachers. ICOM is very proud to see our students strive for greatness in all that they pursue as they continue to gain knowledge that shapes their bright future.









## Primary Senior Quran

Asalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh,

Senior Primary Quran students have experienced a variety of meaningful end of year activities. It is a powerful approach that highlights collaboration, critical thinking, connections that requires students to reflect on everything they have learned during Quran classes. Students work with their peers as well as individually to identify big takeaways, key learning points, and make connections between the pillars of the class.

These particular resources were created for Senior Primary Quran Department students. Teachers created and modified the directions, content, and organized the activities to best suit their level of understanding.

It was a great way to mentally assess the year. Not only did it help students to reflect on their own performance but also helped them to review the different topics and lessons that they studied throughout the year. This was a fresh way to remember the year and connect all of the dots in ways that students wouldn't have noticed before.

**Ms Muna Abubaker**

*Senior Primary Quran Coordinator*



## The role of water in our lives

What do you think the role of water plays in our lives? Water is a liquid which allows the chemistry of life to take place. It makes up 60-75% of a human's average body weight and feeds all types of plants, including trees, therefore enabling the cycle of life to continue. Likewise, a human being could survive 1 month without food, but could never survive 3 days without water. Water is very important, and its importance could never be compared to anything else on earth. Animals, sea creatures as well as us human beings would have never existed if it wasn't for water.

Firstly, water is a very big part of our daily life. Drinking water is what we need to do every day as the benefits are enormous. Water helps everyone of any age to regulate a normal temperature, so that it is not too high or not too low. Water has a huge impact on our hydration, so when we do physical activity, water helps keep us to stay healthy. Other benefits include the production of saliva to assist in swallowing. It protects body organs from failure and helps our body to correctly function. Water even moistens the cell tissues in the eyes, mouth and nose.

To continue this topic, water is actually the main property of blood, which carries nutrients to cells and carries wastes out of the body. It is also a key factor in supporting our skin, lung and kidney health amongst other bodily systems. It converts food into energy as well as helps our body digest our food to remain healthy.

Adding to this important topic water can pretty much help you with everything. A loss of just 4% of water for your body can lead to dehydration. We need to drink around 2L a day to stay healthy.

In addition, water is a very big part of our planet earth 97% of earth is covered in salty water, 3% of water in earth is the water we can drink. Water is even used in the production of making paper. Scientists believe water came to earth a very long time ago to hydrate some certain types of rocks. The bulk of the world's water use is for agriculture, industry and electricity.

In conclusion, water is very important and it is the most fundamental building block of life. It allows our body and the world to function as well as allowing us live with a healthy body and environment.

**Souha Baarini**  
Year 5 Student



# Primary Arabic

The Arabic department continue to grow and improve as time goes by, and the Arabic department teachers are very proud of everything our students continue to achieve. This year we have witnessed a number of improvements in the learning and engagement of Arabic amongst students. This has encouraged us to expand the subject to the year 1 students and further develop our Arabic book into the Sanabil Arabic series. We have created a new book as part of the Sanabel series for the year 1s and is now ready to be taught during 2023 academic year. We look forward to teaching it and continue expanding the Sanabil series!

The Arabic room has been utilised throughout the year to further support the students' learning. The room has been set up to go hand in hand with the Sanabel series. Each corner in the Arabic room coincides with a theme that is taught in the book. The Arabic room allows students to explore the themes in practical ways and bring what they learn into life. It has been wonderful watching the students engage in the Arabic language as well as exploring the Arabic room.

The Sanabel series books helps students confidence in learning Arabic, some of unique points of the series are:

1. The books incorporate an emphasis on inclusivity, diversity in the characters and references mentioned throughout. The series takes into consideration the multicultural backgrounds of all students, respect towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and respect towards people with disabilities.
2. The series incorporates Islamic and Quranic concepts throughout all chapters. Quranic words are applied in every lesson to allow students to link their Arabic understanding with their understanding of the Quran, this has really improved the students' confidence in reading the Quran.
3. The Sanabil series is created to encourage self- learning. Students should be able to learn each lesson with little to no guidance. Each lesson includes a dictionary for all the new and important words to help students navigate with new words in every lesson.
4. Each lesson includes a number of questions for discussion and encourages comprehension. The series also includes practical activities throughout to help guide teachers in applying the lessons through practical and engaging class activities.



5. The Sanabil series is built upon themes, each theme is broken up into a number of lessons. This allows students to accumulate their knowledge in one area by learning about the theme from multiple angles and in various contexts. These themes are vertically planned across the year levels to ensure the students learn them in more depth over the years.

6. The series focuses on visual stimulation; colours are used throughout the book to link certain grammar (adjectives are in the colour orange, verbs are in red etc...). Each theme is given a specific colour and the images in the book are used to help encourage the students' understanding of the text.

We hope to continue to see growth in the students when it comes to their engagement in the Arabic language and we aim to continue to focus on the improvement of the curriculum to meet the students' educational needs.

**Ms Asma Herzalla**

*Primary Arabic Coordinator*

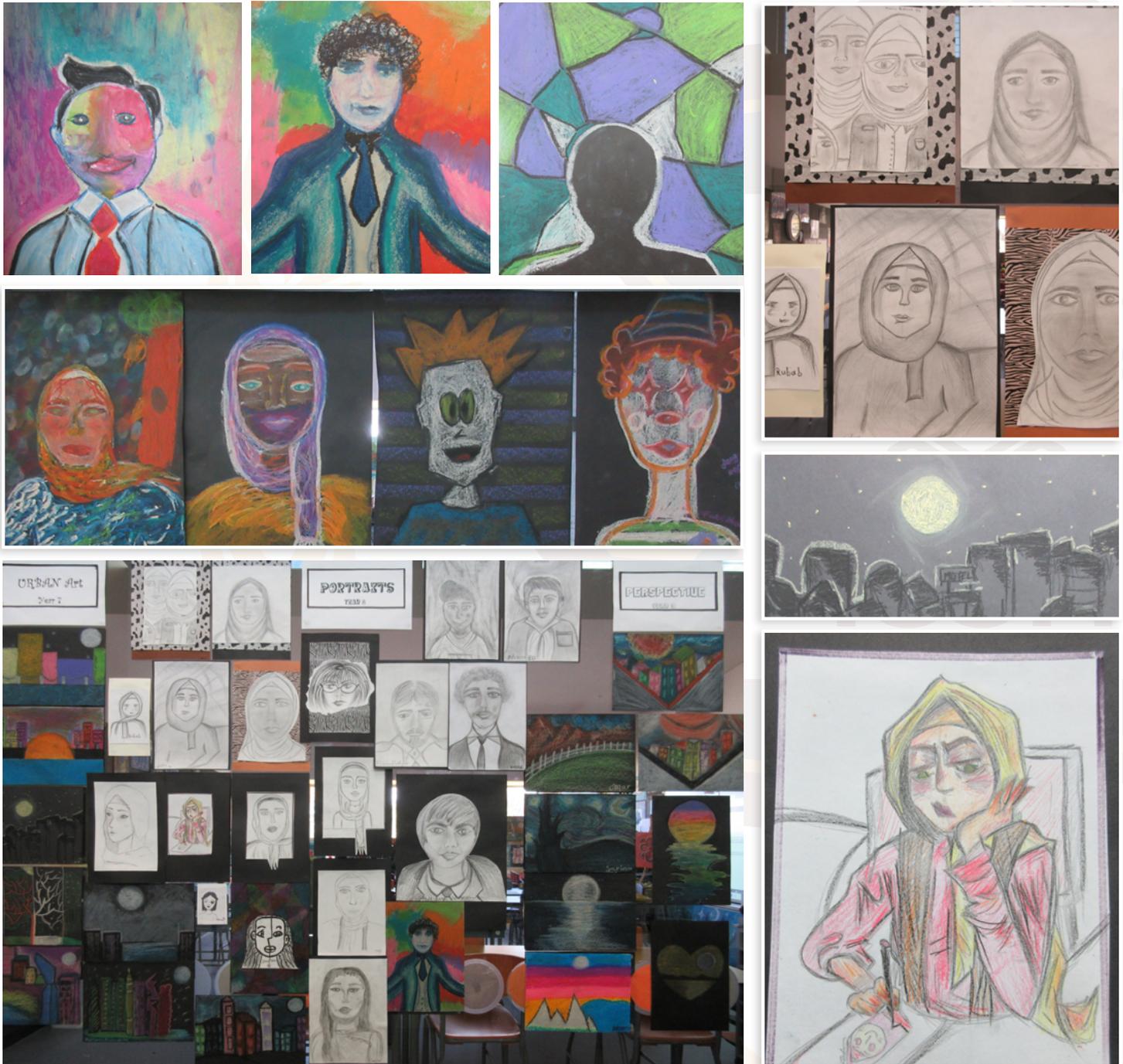


# Secondary Art

This term was an Inspirational one. Our secondary students have had the opportunity to take Art to the next level as they participated in Tonal work, and experimented with Oil Pastel techniques. The Year 7 Students applied a better understanding of the Urban Art and Modernism, the Year 8 Students expressed them selves better in the creative feelings, exploring different emotions whilst creating their Self Portraits, and the Year 9 student delivered great talent in Creative Perspective and artistic skills. Our secondary students took great advantage of the opportunity they were given to achieve their best as they all delivered and took Art at ICOM to the next level!

With the year of 2022 coming to an end, I can say that I am a proud teacher to all our Secondary Art Students. Below are a serious of Secondary ART using diffrent mediums and techniques from the year 2022

**Ms Lamia Al Asaly**  
Secondary Art Teacher



# World Cup Celebration

The FIFA world cup is only held once every 4 years and is the most watched sporting event in the world. It is estimated that the world cup will be watched by 5 billion people across the globe. It is also the first time in history that the World Cup has been hosted by a Muslim country, Qatar. A proud moment for Muslims all over the world.

ICOM celebrated World Cup for an entire week in November. The College PE Departments organised an amazing week, full of engaging activities related to the World Cup. Students participated in Bubble Soccer matches, Soccer tournaments, Cross Bar Challenge, Target shooting accuracy and many more related activities. Students also had a chance to colour in Football themed art and the week was concluded with a special World Cup celebration day.

ICOM was also a proud sponsor and host of the inaugural Victorian Inter Mosque World Cup Competition.

We welcomed 24 teams comprised of 144 players from many Mosques and Islamic Centers across Melbourne's western suburbs for a World Cup Challenge on our school fields. The finale was won by Newport Storm Football Club. It was a lovely day, enjoyed by the numerous attendees and filled with positive community spirit.



## Secondary Wellbeing

Alhamdulillah, another eventful and uninterrupted year has passed by at ICOM. But of course, it cannot end without introducing the Year 6 students to the Secondary campus.

On the last two days at the college, the secondary school organised an exciting transition program for our newcomers. A program full of information, education, benefits and fun. The program included introductions to all the subjects they will be learning next year, run by their potential 2023 teachers. Additionally, they met the secondary leadership team and especially their Year Level Coordinator Ms Daniella Moyla who welcomed them with open arms and introduced herself to establish the first step in a long-term positive relationship to come.

However, the students were mostly excited to receive their ICOM laptops. The IT Support team delivered the laptops to them and gave them an induction on how to use it and more importantly how not to.

The first transition day ended with an exciting wellbeing event lead by the Student Services Team. There were many activities and competitions for the students aimed at breaking the ice between the students and their teachers, building positive friendships between themselves, and getting to know one another.

The last day of the school ended with multiple sport events organised by the PE department. The sport events included Soccer, Basketball, Archery, Bubble Soccer, Human Fuse ball and much more. It was such a thrill to end the year by.

The events and the transition program was well received by the students, and I hope it will excite them for their Secondary life that will start in 2023 inshallah.

### Mr Omar Lahham

*Head of Secondary Student Services*





# Library News

Asalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh,

Subhana'Allah how time flies as it is the end of the year of 2022. We all cherish the memorable moments in the ICOM Library- from the library/ICT lessons, reading books, researching and the fun activities based on the school events - like the scavenger hunt near literacy week. I am very proud that all students use the ICOM Library effectively. Excellent work.

The vibe of the World Cup was felt in the ICOM Library. With our little mascot, named Zain, playing for Australia. He wore the jersey, and the sponsor was Daffodil day - who help with cancer researching and supporting cancer patients. The primary students loved meeting him with his blue soccer ball. He joined us in helping putting books back on the shelves with the students. We had fun colouring sheets and soccer books, which primary students enjoyed too.

An amazing journey and progress in the ICOM Library, al hamdu'Allah. Ma'sha'Allah at the moment the ICOM Library has 52,000 books and resources. Yes you guessed it - we are still receiving new books for 2023 insha'Allah to increase the knowledge and learning.

It has been a pleasure in teaching the primary students and I am looking forward to more fun activities in 2023 insha'Allah. Wishing the students, parents and staff the very best. Have a wonderful and enjoyable holiday. See you all next year.

Jazak'Allah Kheiraan and Thank you

**Ms Haifa Atatreh**  
Primary Teacher Librarian

**Ms Humairaa Suliman**  
Primary Librarian

**Mr George Demetrios**  
Head Librarian

**Ms Caspian Hendrey**  
Secondary Librarian



## Featured Book: Summarized Sahih Al-Bukhari Hadith

**Author:** Dr. Muhammad Muhsin Khan **Date published:** 1996

Sahih Al-Bukhari covers almost all aspects of life in providing proper guidance from the messenger of Allah s.w.t. When you come back in 2023 insha'Allah you can read and borrow it from the ICOM Library.

Since you are on holidays now, you can watch this video in Arabic with English subtitles on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gawdE7G4TPE>

