

ICOM INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Islamic College Of Melbourne



TERM 4: Year 12 Graduation Celebration, Year 6 Graduation Celebration, Secondary Awards Night, Important Dates, Reminders and more!

Principal's Message



Assalamualaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh.

Dear parents, guardians and students,

Praise be to Allah SWT, the source of all blessings and bestower of endless mercy. It is with a profound sense of pride that I reflect upon another year of success at ICOM. Throughout the year, we have witnessed the remarkable growth, relentless perseverance, and inspiring achievements of our students, guided by the enduring principles of faith and knowledge. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our students, parents, and staff for their unwavering support and commitment towards upholding these values and for their pivotal role in fostering an environment where faith and knowledge harmoniously coexist, ultimately paving the way for our collective success.

Over the past year, we have seen a significant increase in enrolment numbers, with our student population rising from 1581 in 2022 to an impressive 1710 in 2023. This growth is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire school community, and I cannot express enough how grateful I am for your continued support in making our school a thriving hub of education. As our numbers continue to rise, we are committed to ensuring that every student receives the highest quality education and support in their academic journey.

There have been many notable additions to our College in 2023. The most significant of which, has been the construction and completion of the brand-new Primary School building for our Foundation, Year 5 and Year 6 students. The new building is truly a state-of-the-art facility, equipped with modern amenities and learning spaces to provide students with the best possible learning environment. These new classrooms were carefully designed and meticulously constructed to accommodate our growing student population and ensure each ICOM student has access to the quality education they deserve. Another remarkable addition was the construction of the massive canopy which was installed over the synthetic turf court area at the College. This structure is vital as it provides our Physical Education classes with extra indoor space, allowing them to expand their activities even during inclement weather and the space and opportunity for our students to stay active and healthy.

The Secondary School pathways and programs provided at ICOM, often described as exemplary, are designed with care and student-centred focus to provide diverse pathways for our students. Pathways such as VCE, VET, IB, Secondary Accelerated Program (SAP), and Diverse Educational Enrichment Program (DEEP) cater to students of varying abilities and aspirations.

ICOM also serves as a sanctuary for our students, providing more than just academic knowledge. It is a place where students deepen their understanding of Islam, practice its principles, and embody its values as they navigate life's challenges. Our students have seized numerous opportunities throughout the year to display their commitment to faith, such as the prestigious ICOM Annual Quran Competition, ICOM Hijab Day, Ramadan activities, the Quran Awards Night, Hajj Week, and Arabic Weeks. These events have nurtured their spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical development, fostering a sense of belonging and compassion within our school community.

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A huge highlight of this year has been the VRQA approval of ICOM to deliver The Diploma of Islamic Leadership. This program is uniquely designed to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in the field of Islamic leadership. The comprehensive curriculum covers various aspects of Islamic teachings, including Quranic studies, Hadith, Islamic jurisprudence, and principles of Islamic ethics. Upon completion of the course, students will have the opportunity for pathways in three fields: Imam, Islamic Chaplain and Religious Instructor. These esteemed roles hold significant importance within the Muslim community, as they involve leading prayers, providing spiritual guidance, and teaching Islamic principles to others. By offering this program, ICOM fulfills its mission to foster strong and responsible leaders within the Muslim community who are equipped to navigate the complexities of the modern world while upholding the principles of Islam.

I am immensely proud of our College debating team being one of the largest and most successful in the state, with over 55 students in this program, competing in inter-school debating and achieving remarkable results. In 2023, ICOM continued to proudly host the Inter-School Junior School Debating program. Debating is an excellent experience for students as it helps develop their oral and communication skills, enhances their confidence, improves their public speaking skills, helps them develop excellent critical thinking skills and provides an effective tool for research, organization, and presentation.

The end-of-year events and celebrations were a marvellous way befitting to conclude a successful year. The Foundation End of Year Concert, Year 6 Graduation, Secondary Awards Night and Year 12 Graduation were all great successes alhamdulillah and were thoroughly enjoyed by parents, students and staff.

In conclusion, the unwavering dedication of our staff, the support of our parents, and the collaborative efforts of our entire community have made this year exceptional in terms of growth and achievement. ICOM continues to motivate our students to unlock their full potential, pursue excellence, and become honourable ambassadors of their faith. With gratitude and pride, we look forward to the future and the continued success of our beloved ICOM.

Dr Abdul M. Kamareddine
College Principal



Important Dates and Reminders

- Parents are reminded that school commences for students at 8:35am.
- Please ensure that you inform the College or update your details on Seqta Engage 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 name's 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

15 December 2023

Admin Office close

17 January 2024

Admin Office opens

26 January 2024

Australia Day Public
Holiday

30 January 2024

Term 1 commences for
Students (Year 1-12)

1 February 2024

ICOM Hijab Day

6 February 2024

Term 1 commences for
Foundation students

28 February 2024

Foundation to Year 6
Photo Day

1 March 2024

Year 7 - 12 Photo Day

4 - 7 March 2024

Year 6 Canberra Camp

8 March 2024

Day off for Year 6
students

28 March 2024

Last Day of Term 1
for students

28 March 2024

Multicultural Day

Year 12 Graduation Celebration

It was a momentous occasion as we bid farewell to an amazing group of young minds who have successfully completed their high school journey.

A massive congratulations to each graduate for their hard work, dedication, and perseverance throughout the year. Your achievements are a testament to your resilience and commitment to excellence.

The night was filled with proud moments as students were presented with well-deserved awards and, of course, their hard-earned certificates. It was truly inspiring to see these young individuals recognised for their accomplishments, both academically and personally.

As the graduates embark on new adventures, we wish them the very best in all their future endeavours. May Allah swt fill your paths with continued success, joy, and fulfilment.

Remember, this is just the beginning of an exciting journey, and the world is ready for the incredible contributions each one of you will make.

A special shoutout goes to all the teachers, parents and everyone who has supported these graduates throughout their school years. Your guidance and encouragement have played a vital role in their success.

Wishing all our Year 12 Graduates a bright and prosperous future InshAllah!



Congratulations!













Year 6 Graduation Celebration

Earlier this month marked a special moment in the journey of our fantastic students as they bid farewell to primary school and get ready to embark on a new adventure in higher education!

Congratulations to each one of our graduating students. Your hard work, dedication and perseverance have brought you to this moment, and we couldn't be prouder of the incredible individuals you have become.

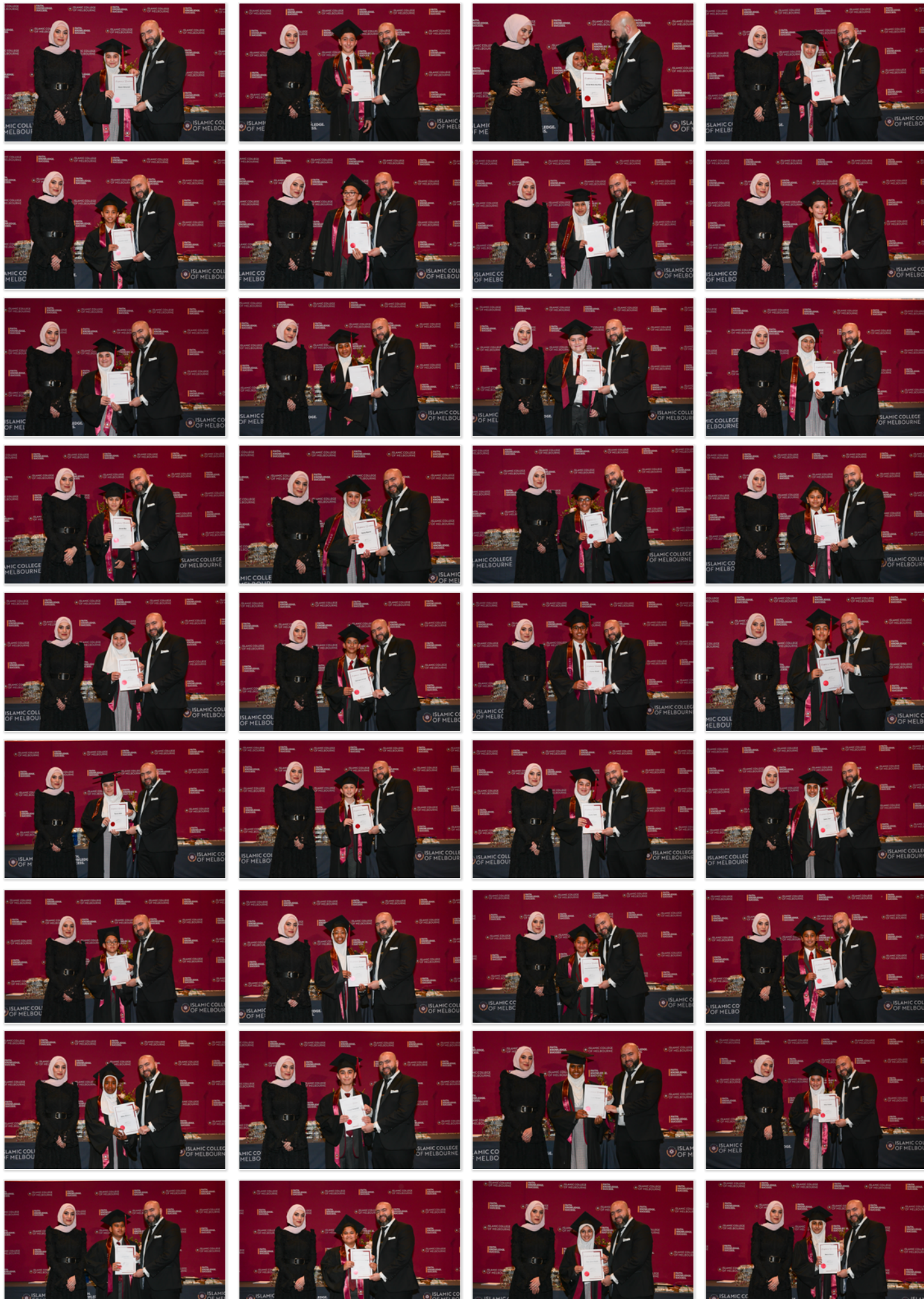
A big shoutout also goes out to all our award winners who have demonstrated exceptional skills and talents throughout the year. Your achievements are truly commendable, and we look forward to seeing you continue to shine.

To the entire graduating class, as you step into the next chapter of your academic journey, may you continue to learn, grow, and discover the incredible potential that lies within each of you. Your futures are bright InshAllah and we can't wait to see the amazing things you will achieve!

We also want to express our deepest gratitude to the amazing teachers and dedicated parents who have played a pivotal role in shaping these young minds.











Secondary Awards Night Celebration

What a night to remember at ICOM's Secondary Awards Night!

Our talented and dedicated students took centre stage, and it was an absolute honour to have our esteemed College Principal, present them with well-deserved plaques and certificate.

For the most improved to excellence awards, and the prestigious scholarships, every moment was a testament to the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of our incredible students. The pride we feel for their achievements is immeasurable.

The night was not only about accolades but also a celebration of the journey, filled with entertainment that touched our hearts. From the beautiful recitation of the Holy Quran to a passionate recitation of "From the River to the Sea" by our students to the enchanting Nasheed groups spiritual songs and a special guest appearance by comedian Nazeem Hussain all added an extra layer of joy to the evening.

In addition, our CAS and TOK students showcased their brilliance with an exhibition. The creativity and intellect on display were truly remarkable, further highlighting the diverse talents within our ICOM community.

A heartfelt congratulations goes out to all our high achievers who made this night truly memorable. Your commitment to excellence has not gone unnoticed, and we eagerly anticipate the amazing things you will continue to achieve.

A special shoutout to all the outstanding teachers and proud parents who played a pivotal role in guiding and nurturing our students.









2023 Mentoring Celebration

During mid November ICOM held its Mentoring 2023 program, celebrating and enduring connections formed over the four terms of the year.

Throughout the year, our Year 10 mentors played a vital role in guiding our Year 7 students through their transition to secondary school, covering areas like organisation, resilience, and healthy relationships.

Our college mentoring program, based on research-backed framework, demonstrated substantial benefits for both mentees and mentors. Beyond supporting the mentees, mentors experienced personal and professional growth, enhancing communication and leadership skills for their future.

This year's highlights include mentors and mentees sharing experiences, a photo booth capturing memories, and a collaborative circus demonstration by our year 7 students, showcasing their talents with the support of their mentors.

A special thanks to all Year 10 mentors. Your dedication is a source of pride, and we look forward to your continued contributions and leaderships as Year 11 students in 2023.



UN Voice Competition

We are overjoyed to share the achievement of three of our outstanding students, Anaya Asim, Maliha Tasneem and Manha Shaik, who not only represented our college with distinction but also secured a place among the top six participants in the UN Voice competition State Finals, a true testament to their exceptional public speaking skills and commitment to positive change. Maliha placed in the top 3 and will now represent ICOM on the National Stage!

The UN Voice competition, which began as a journey for students to address pressing issues, has evolved into a platform for our youth to showcase their dedication and passion for creating a better world. Anaya, Maliha and Manha, through their eloquence and insightful perspectives, have proven themselves as voices that demand attention and inspire action.

Before we delve into their reflections, let's acknowledge the other students who signed up for this incredible journey and represented ICOM with pride:

Fatima Ajmal, Faraz Razman, Ameen Al-Khalidi, Umar Muhammad, Zayan Nour, Rukaiya Riyas Hashim, Tasneem Muntasir, Syed Omer Bilal Mehdi, Rayan Aliady, Maria Baloch, Arham Ali Mir, Nada Mumtaz Khan, Amna Muhajireen, Shahir Baig, Mahib Mihran Karim, Mir Munstasir Ali, Sarina Tahajeeb, Manha Shaik, Sidra Muntaha, Muhammad Umer Khan Leghari, Syeda Fatima Zehra

Now, let's hear directly from our participants about their experiences:

Taking part in the United Nations Youth program felt like embarking on an eye-opening journey. It provided an incredible stage to tackle some of the world's most critical issues right here on a national platform. Crafting speeches that delved into topics like climate change, human rights, and social justice was a challenge that demanded extensive research and a heartfelt understanding of the urgency behind these issues. Securing a spot among the top six speakers? That was a moment that truly validated the hard work and dedication poured into advocating for positive change. It wasn't just about my efforts but also the collective commitment we all shared. This experience cemented my belief in the pivotal role of young people in shaping our future. It showcased the immense power that comes from our voices uniting to tackle complex societal challenges head-on. It left me feeling responsible and empowered, knowing that individuals of any age can significantly contribute to creating a fairer, more sustainable world. - **Anaya**



The 18th of November 2023 was a phenomenal day. Six delegates from all over Victoria, all in one zoom call for the first time, discussing a wide range of topics. The experience was like no other as in the previous round, participants delivered speeches one-on-one with the judges. It was enlightening to listen to a variety of speeches with topics stemming from Australian issues to issues all over the world with creative proposals as to how we can solve them. From solutions to fast fashion by creating eco-friendly clothing to integrating First Nations languages in the Australian curriculum to keep them alive and assist them to thrive throughout the Australian community, the list is endless. Although we weren't allowed to spectate a fellow delegate's impromptu, I can guarantee that it was nerve-wracking for all of us as we were completely oblivious to the questions they would ask us. We only had one minute to prepare how we were going to answer the two questions across two minutes! All in all, it was a great experience, though nerve-wracking the art of letting your voice be heard will always prevail, especially amongst the youth. We are the future of this world and it is our responsibility to rise above and solve worldly issues that will affect us in the future. - **Maliha**

We wish Maliha all the best on the National Stage. I would like to express my gratitude to all the participants who embarked on this journey, contributing to the vibrant tapestry of voices advocating for positive change.

Mr Jarrod Carrington

Debating and Public Speaking Coordinator

Leadership Adventure "It's in our DNA"

The Year 8 cohort shared in the buzz and excitement generated by the recent "It's in our DNA" incursion, a leadership program tailored for our students. On Friday, November 24 our students embarked on a transformative journey of self-discovery, guided by the experts at Burn Bright.

A Day to Remember: *Imagine a day filled with interactive sessions, lively discussions, and hands-on activities—this was the essence of "It's in our DNA." The program was meticulously designed to captivate our Year 8 students, making leadership concepts not just relatable but exciting.*

In the Spotlight: *The whole Year 8 cohort took centre stage, diving into leadership exploration with enthusiasm. They were engaged in activities that sparked their curiosity, challenged their perspectives, and encouraged self-reflection.*

Key Highlights: *Dynamic Workshops: Interactive workshops tailored for Year 8, where students actively participated in discussions, games, and exercises designed to bring out their leadership potential.*

Influence in Action: *Our students got hands-on experience in understanding their influence and exploring how they can positively impact those around them.*

Strengths Spotlight: *Through engaging exercises, students identified their unique strengths and celebrated the diversity of strengths within their cohort.*

Team Building: *Fun and collaborative team-building activities fostered positive friendships and a sense of belonging among our Year 8 students.*

Leadership Challenges: *Real-world leadership challenges were presented to inspire critical thinking and problem-solving skills.*

Post-Incursion Brilliance: *Following this exhilarating program, our Year 8 students are now equipped to:*

Lead with Influence: They understand the potency of their influence and are ready to wield it positively.

Spot the Leader Within: Recognition of leadership qualities in themselves and others, paving the way for a confident, supportive community.

Resilient Minds: Armed with the tools to tackle challenges head-on, our students are now more resilient and prepared for whatever comes their way.

Friendship Fortification: A strengthened sense of camaraderie, ensuring that our students are looking out for each other and fostering positive friendships.

Service Spirit: The seeds of servant leadership have been planted, encouraging a desire to serve others within our Year 8 cohort.

Champions of Diversity: Embracing diversity and celebrating differences, creating a culture of inclusivity within our school community.

I'm very proud of our Year 8 students for embracing this leadership adventure with open hearts and minds. "It's in our DNA" has undoubtedly left a mark on their journey towards becoming empowered, empathetic leaders.

Mr Jarrod Carrington

Debating and Public Speaking Coordinator



Year 2 Fairy Park

Our Year 2 students had the opportunity to explore Fairy Park, a stunning outdoor destination. Along the paved footpaths, intricate fairy tale scenes came to life, including castles, cottages and even caves. This magical and timeless place is dedicated to bringing classic European folklore to life. During their visit, the students were introduced to the art of traditional fairytales and had the chance to experience and discover ancient tales, myths, and legends in this enchanting mediaeval wonderland. This information will help us write our own narrative story. The students also enjoyed exploring the playground and other areas within the park. Overall, the excursion was fantastic and the students were in awe of the tales, myths and legends that they encountered.

Ms Mubeen Talath

Year 2 Teacher



Primary Library News



Asalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh,

Term Four was a very busy time in the library for the Primary team.

We hosted a coloring club, which was so popular we had to increase it from once a week to every recess! We have so many creative students it was always a hard decision at the end of the week to pick the pictures for display on our noticeboard. Such enthusiasm from everyone involved.

We also grew our writing club, which started with one member and now we have half a dozen or so, weather dependent of course. Poems seemed a popular choice, followed closely by short stories. We are looking forward to renewing this club in 2024 and watching our students writing skill flourish.

Our drawing club has encouraged its participants to practice their fine motor skills and attention to detail, it's not as easy as it looks and the students have embraced the challenge with gusto.

With all library books being returned to the library in the final 3 weeks of the term, where would we be without our student library assistants, this program has been a huge success, allowing the students a chance to navigate the library shelves and volunteer their time to help the library team. A big thank you to everyone involved and we look forward to continuing the program in the new year.

The implementation of librarian run library sessions has given the students the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the library team and the library itself, as well as learning literacy and library skills they can take to their local library during the holidays. It was an absolute delight to meet each student as they came in with their class groups.

We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2024.

Mr George Demetrios
Head Librarian

Ms Amie Callaghan
Primary Librarian



Secondary Library News



Asalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh,

As our Secondary students prepared for their end of year assessments and exams during term 4, the library played a supportive role to our students. Photocopying, loans and quiet spaces were at the forefront, as students prepared during this time of heightened stress.

Effective test-taking strategies and the allocation of dedicated study time were evident through student agency. Our Year 12 Study Room and spaces were filled with conscientious and hardworking individuals who applied their skills and knowledge to prepare for this defining moment in their lives.

To our outgoing Year 12 students who sat their VCE and IB exams, the library team would like to extend our sincere thanks for a wonderful year in the library. The time they spent in the library was truly special filled with lots of learning, studying, growth and the occasional heartfelt and humorous moments.

To our families and students returning next year, we wish you a safe and relaxing holiday break and we look forward to welcoming our students back in 2024 insha'Allah.

Mr George Demetrios
Head Librarian

Ms Nadia Moosa
Secondary Librarian

